

The Middlebury Campus

FEBRUARY 23, 2012 | VOL. 110 NO. 15 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

Spring concert features Wale

By Kara Shurmantine

Washington, D.C.-based rapper Wale will perform at Nelson Arena on April 21. The Concerts Committee of the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) organized the show as this spring's biggest concert.

Committee chair Dan Crepps '12 noted that the majority of students who responded to MCAB's campus-wide survey in the fall indicated that they wanted "a big, high-energy hip-hop show," and as a result, the committee "put that as the highest priority in [their] selection process."

"He is a very upbeat hip-hop artist that does a very high-energy, fun show and is excellent live," wrote Crepps, who has seen Wale perform, in an email. "He was a phenomenal live performer."

Wale has produced seven mixtapes and two studio albums since 2005, including 2009's *Attention Deficit* and last year's *Ambition*. He has collaborated with artists such as the Roots, Kid Cudi, Pusha T, John Mayer, Lil Wayne, K'Naan and, notably, Lady Gaga, with whom he pro-

duced 2009's single "Chillin." His newest single, "Lotus Flower Bomb," is a Billboard Top 100 hit and has garnered over 6 million hits.

Tickets will go on sale at the box office on April 1, at \$15 for students; the price will increase to \$20 at the door.

"Midd Kids should expect a high-quality, energetic, fun, danceable show that they will remember for years — and expect to see an artist that is on his way to the top of his career," wrote Crepps.



COURTESY

The spring concert will feature Wale.

ONE SMALL STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MIDDLEBURY



ANDREW PODRYGULA

Construction has begun on the College's 34 new solar panels, located on Route 125 behind Ross Commons. In addition to reducing the College's carbon footprint, the panels — which track the sun's movement across the sky — are expected to net the College \$5-10,000 per year.

Alcohol discussion continues

By Jeremy Kallan and Danny Zhang

The Task Force on Alcohol and Social Life held four open forums during Winter Term to hear candid student opinions regarding the role of social houses, party registration policies, first-year social life and Public Safety on campus and in relation to alcohol use. Task force co-chairs Head Football Coach Bob Ritter and Dean of Students Katy Smith Abbott led the discussions and served as forum moderators.

STUDENTS DISSATISFIED OVER PARTY REGISTRATION

A forum on party registration policies, the second in a series led by the task force, took place on Jan. 18 in the Hepburn Lounge. Approximately 10 students were in attendance, but the discussion shed significant light on issues surrounding registered parties.

"The problem with the registered party system is that there is no incentive for anyone to throw them," said Dan Lungo '13, Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) president. "The fact of the matter is you can get in more

trouble for throwing a registered party and following the system than [you can] throwing an unregistered party and just going around the system." A handful of attendees shared Lungo's sentiments.

A number of possibilities for providing incentive to host parties were suggested by both panel and audience members, including funding from the College and a simpler registration system with a more realistic timeline.

Representatives from social houses and other large residential spaces expressed difficulty with controlling doors and the number of students in attendance, especially at larger registered parties. Restricted access often leads to vandalism or dorm damage, as party-goers try to find other ways to enter the building.

Associate Director of Public Safety Dan Gaiotti explained that the registration of kegs and other alcoholic beverages allows Public Safety to more accurately monitor alcohol use. Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) President Zach Hitchcock '13 noted that Public Safety cannot realistically keep track of all alco-

hol on campus, thus College rules pertaining to kegs are difficult to enforce.

Lungo said that Prescott House, where ADP house is located, has had greater success and fewer run-ins with Public Safety this year by holding more small, unregistered gatherings where alcohol is not served, as opposed to going through the formal process of registering a party.

The possibility of student organizations hosting parties in social house spaces and mandatory wristbands as a means of crowd control was also discussed at the forum.

QUESTIONING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A forum discussing the role of Public Safety was held in the Pearsons Lounge on Feb. 1, in which students again compared the College's alcohol policy to those of other schools. Stanford's "open door" policy was again cited as a potential means of creating a safe social setting.

Ethan Collins '14 cited Bates College's ban on hard alcohol and

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PHONEBOOTHS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



PAUL GERARD

In an effort to provide locations for private, indoor phone conversations in Davis Family Library, Library and Information Services (LIS) purchased two "Cell Zone" booths, pictured above. The booths, currently located on the upper and lower floors of the Davis Family Library, retail at around \$3,000, though were purchased at "deeply discounted prices," LIS Facilities Coordinator Joseph Watson wrote on the LIS blog. The permanent location of the booths, Watson added, is the subject of ongoing discussion.

MiddCore explores upcycling

By Lauren Davidson

The College is taking steps to implement TerraCycle, a new waste management program, which will hopefully be introduced to the student body during Spring Term. MiddCORE suggested the program over Winter Term, and the group has since been working out the finer details of the project.

Founded in 2001, TerraCycle is a recycling system that converts collected waste into a variety of useful products. The organization currently collects waste from over 28 million people in 20 participating countries.

MiddCORE, a Winter Term course that focuses on social entrepreneurship, originally developed the idea to bring TerraCycle

to Middlebury in early January.

"This started as a MiddCORE project where an alum and senior vice president of business development for TerraCycle, Jo Opat, challenged my students to identify waste streams at Middlebury that could be diverted from landfills and upcycled into usable products," said Associate Professor of Economics Jessica Holmes.

The project is still in the developmental stages, as the group is discussing practical ways to implement the program on campus.

As of now, MiddCORE has decided to collect Solo cups and ink cartridges in dispensers that will be placed in dorms and other central locations. The materials will then be collected by both Mid-

dCORE and facilities in order to be sent to TerraCycle. There, the materials will be transformed into products ranging from notebooks to kites.

The project received \$800 from the environmental council, and aims to raise an additional \$1,500 to go toward collection bins.

According to Lindsey Hunt '14, the project will be introduced to the College as soon as the issue of obtaining dispensers is solved.

"We need to get the containers for the Solo cups because we want them to be easily stackable," she said. "We are going to do some research now on whether we want to create our own or if we want to

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INSIDE



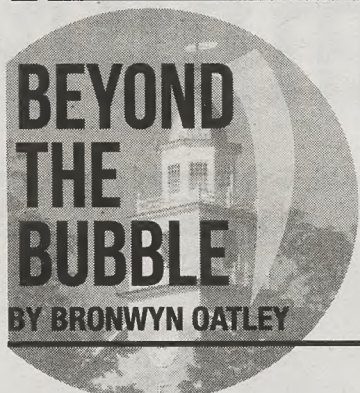
HATS OFF TO VERMONT'S LARGEST CRAFT BREWERY
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THE SKINNY ON MIDDLEBURY'S SMALLEST MAJORS
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MUSEUM OFFERS A NEW VIEW OF AFRICA
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Last week in Britain, devout Muslim and Chairman of the Conservative Party Baroness Warsi warned citizens of the "militant secularization" occurring in her nation, and cautioned against further separation of the church and state.

Her statements were made on Monday following a decision by the British high court forbidding municipal council members from holding prayers during meetings. In the decision, the judges emphasized that prayer is a private matter of faith and should have no role in public life.

Warsi responded forcefully in an article she sent to the *Daily Telegraph*, arguing that religion is being "sidelined, marginalized and downgraded in a public sphere."

"For me, one of the most worrying aspects about this militant secularization is that at its core and in its instincts it is deeply intolerant," she told the British newspaper. "It demonstrates similar traits to totalitarian regimes — denying people the right to a religious identity because they were frightened of the concept of multiple identities."

As a senior minister in David Cameron's government and the first female Muslim cabinet minister, Baroness Warsi is uniquely positioned to raise this issue in the public sphere.

Visiting the Vatican on Tuesday, Warsi attempted to gain the support of the Pope and the broader Christian community. She explained, "You cannot and should not extract these Christian foundations from the evolution of our nations any more than you can or should erase the spires from our landscapes."

BBC News reported that Warsi received the support of the Queen of England with her remarks.

"We should remind ourselves of the significant position of the Church of England in our nation's life," the Queen said.

David Cameron also welcomed Warsi's visit to the Vatican, stating, "Our relationship with the Holy See is an important one and it speaks powerfully of the positive contribution faith can make to all societies."

The BBC reported, however, that the British Humanist Association (BHA) pushed back against Warsi's comments. BHA chief executive Andrew Copson, said "In an increasingly non-religious and, at the same time, diverse society, we need policies that will emphasize what we have in common as citizens rather than what divides us." Copson called Warsi's statements, "outdated, unwarranted and divisive."

While tempers have been high in response to this religious debate, *Globe and Mail* columnist Doug Sanders explained, "No one is calling for a religious state or attacking faith," but rather that such tension is the result of a "showdown, across the West, between two definitions of 'freedom of religion.'"

The journalist explained that by one definition citizens are free to bring religion into their public lives by invoking God in the enactment of legislation or by wearing religious symbols in schools. By the competing definition, the public sphere is a "neutral space," one in which citizens should have the right to freedom from religion. An emphasis on this type of interpretation of the interaction between religion and the state has been witnessed in France where Muslim women have been forbidden since 2010 from wearing full-face veils.

Studies indicate however, that British public opinion may soon overshadow political posturing. In a report conducted by the UK-based Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science, researchers found that 74 percent of all Christian respondents agreed that religion should not influence public policy, and that 92 percent of Christians agreed that the law should be applied to all equally, regardless of personal religious beliefs. In the case of religion versus the state, declining commitment to faith may eliminate vibrant religious life in the public sphere.

Middlebury partners with VLS

By Bronwyn Oatley

Middlebury College has signed an agreement with Vermont Law School (VLS) that will provide one to two full scholarships yearly to qualified Middlebury graduates seeking a degree from the highly ranked environmental law school. The partnership will also guarantee admission to all other Middlebury applicants whose GPAs and LSAT scores are equal to or stronger than the median for VLS's entering class.

According to the Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks Jay, the partnership with VLS will be mutually beneficial for the two institutions. She explained, "Vermont Law School will gain from a more qualified applicant pool and Middlebury graduates will have more choices when they think about a future in law."

Pre-law program adviser and Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Murray Dry supported the program, but illustrated that, "it is not for everyone." While Vermont Law School is nationally ranked in the field of environmental law, it is lower ranked in other areas of judicial study.

"The full scholarship provided by VLS will be substantial for the selected one or two students, but many other qualified Middlebury

graduates will look toward Harvard or Yale," he said.

Jenks-Jay added that the partnership serves to increase the portfolio of options available to Middlebury students following graduation.

"The [scholarship] program will provide students with opportunity to obtain a JD or MLEP of joint-degree JD/MLEP degree debt free. After graduation these students will be unencumbered by the need to pay off loans." Such freedom might permit students to pursue less profitable areas of law, mirroring the focus on service that the application to VLS emphasizes to prospective student applicants.

Such an emphasis on the establishment of partnerships with other high caliber institutions is not new to Middlebury College.

"None of the programs are the same, but the College has had a long standing partnerships with Columbia [University] and Dartmouth [College] in engineering, which have been running for a long time," Jenks-Jay explained. These agreements have enabled students to obtain masters degrees more quickly, and have reduced the cost of obtaining a graduate degree. The College is not directly seeking out partnerships with other institutions, but is being opportunistic when pro-

grams present themselves, recognizing their desirability to Middlebury applicants.

"We're now seeing that prospective Middlebury students are looking at the full palate of opportunities that an institution offers. We heard that incoming students were impressed with some of the Monterey [Institute for International Studies] programs. I wouldn't say that Middlebury is rushing in this direction, but we're pursuing the collaboration with institutions with whom Middlebury is a natural fit, giving our students new and exciting opportunities."

Prospective Vermont Law School student Marie Horbar '09 was pleased by the announcement of the program.

"The new partnership with Vermont Law School is an exiting opportunity for Middlebury students and graduates who are committed to making a difference through policy and law," she wrote in an email.

The partnership between the two institutions will take effect immediately, and will likely result in the acceptance of one to two Middlebury graduates for the upcoming academic year.

"The partnership was a natural fit for Middlebury," Jenks-Jay added, "and we're pleased to provide Middlebury students with yet another possibility after they graduate."

Upcycling to be introduced on campus

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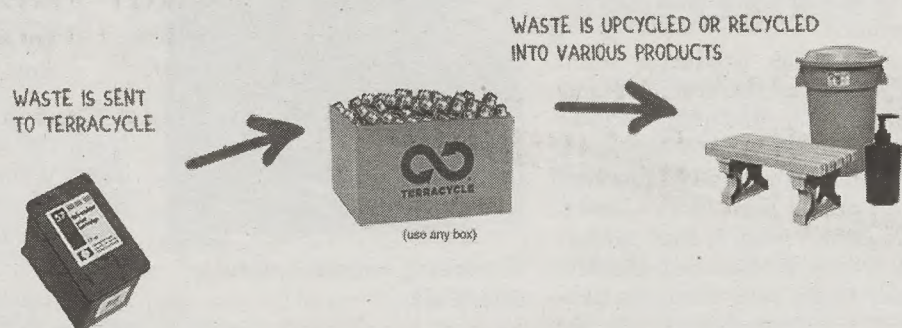
buy them in bulk or if TerraCycle is going to create a new dispenser for them."

Once in full motion, MiddCORE plans to expand the scope of the project, eventually collecting other materials, such as paper towels.

"Right now we want to start out small with something we can manage and see how it goes. Hopefully we will expand it to other materials," said Hunt.

One of the main challenges that the project faces will be generating participation. TerraCycle and MiddCORE will attempt to create more incentive to recycle materials into their respective containers because TerraCycle will donate 2 cents for each Solo cup received and 25 cents for each ink cartridge. The money can then be given as a charity gift or sent directly back to the College. Another idea mentioned was that the collected money go toward the annual spring concert.

"We want to make the student body energized about it and aware of the fact that you can dispense of these things," said Hunt. "We are going to have to do a really good job of marketing because we recognize that it's not necessarily the most convenient thing



COURTESY: TERRACYCLE, INC.

MiddCORE hopes to introduce TerraCycle around campus in the spring term.

and not on the top of people's minds to put their Solo cups into the right dispensers."

As the project gains momentum, Hunt hopes that TerraCycle will be introduced to students within a month. She also anticipates that a TerraCycle club will be set up to generate more focused support for reducing waste on campus.

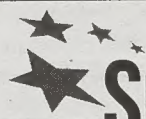
"[Middlebury] is now in the process of building one of the first bona fide TerraCycle campus movements with a long-term goal of diverting more waste per capita than any other college or university," said Holmes. "I have no doubt that Middlebury can do it — especially under the leadership of these

driven, passionate and very resourceful students."

Another member of the project, Alex Bea '12, believes that the project will help raise awareness for waste management.

"Seeing as Middlebury is the pilot program for other colleges and universities around the United States, the potential impact of up-cycling Solo cups spreads far beyond the Middlebury campus," he said.

"Eventually, it would be great if we could expand this program into all other kinds of waste and try to have as little waste from Middlebury going into landfills as possible," said Hunt.



SGA UPDATE

SGA discusses orientation trip funding

By Ben Anderson

The Jan. 29 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA) began with SGA Finance Committee Chair Scott Klenet '12, who presented the Mid-Year Finance Committee Report. The Finance Committee reported good fall and winter terms, with the full report to be emailed to all students at a later date.

The majority of this meeting was devoted to further discussion of the MidView Bill, which discusses the future of orientation programs for incoming first-years. The bill, which was passed at the Jan. 22 meeting, continued funding for the current Outdoor Orientation for New Kids (OINK) program. The bill also laid out a plan stating that the SGA would fund up to half of the program's costs for the next three years. Funding in later years would then be determined between Old Chapel and the SGA.

On Jan. 24, two days after the passing of the bill, an open letter was posted on Midd Blog criticizing the bill. The signers of the letter — Michael Polebaum '12, Brittany Gendron '12 and Luke Carroll Brown '13.5 — though supportive of OINK

as a program, believe that the administration should be responsible either for fully funding the program or finding alternative funding outside of the SGA. They also expressed fear that the currently enacted bill simply postpones the issue of funding such orientation programs and sets a precedent of SGA funding this type of program.

At the meeting, Senator Polebaum presented a bill, co-sponsored by Gendron and Carroll-Brown, which would revise the previously passed MidView Bill. Each senator spoke to the nature of the bill and the program as a whole. Dean of Students Katy Smith Abbott and Mountain Club Treasurer Caroline Santinelli '14 were also present and contributed greatly to the debate. The discussion lasted over an hour. However, in the end, the bill failed with five votes in support, eight against and one abstention.

Finally, Danny Zhang '15 presented a resolution that asked the administration to provide more sanitary measures such as hand sanitizer and cat litter in the wake of the recent gastroenteritis epidemic. The resolution passed unanimously.

The Feb. 19 meeting of the SGA opened

with a resolution presented by Senator Zhang. Zhang is in charge of an ad-hoc committee designated to examine differences in how the College handles financial aid for international students and domestic students. His resolution, which asks the administration to investigate possible financial aid inequalities, passed without resistance.

Next, Kathryn Benson '13 presented a previously discussed resolution that suggests that the administration place all textbooks used for courses which are required for majors on reserve at either the Davis Family Library or the Armstrong Science Library. The resolution passed unanimously.

Later came a report from President of the SGA Vin Recca '12 about the MidView Bill. He said that, after talks between him and the administration, Old Chapel has promised to fund the entirety of such orientation trips after the allotted three years of SGA funding.

Finally came a report on the Spinning Room Resolution. The bikes for the spinning room have been ordered, and the SGA hopes that the room will be open when students return from spring recess.

Winter Carnival Schedule 2012



THURSDAY, FEB. 23:

8 p.m. - 10 p.m.: *Fireworks* and Bonfire on Ross Lawn (free hot drinks) – fireworks will be lit around 9:30pm



10 p.m. - 2 a.m.: Orange Crush neon 80s concert in McCullough [SOLD OUT] (free neon glow sticks and safari sunglasses)



FRIDAY, FEB. 24:

2 p.m.: Middlebury Mountain Club Northern Lights Competition on McCullough Lawn



7 p.m.-9 p.m.: Klondike Rush in Pearsons Lounge **21+ ONLY; BRING 2 IDs and come hang out by the fire with music and friends**



9 p.m.-11 p.m.: Comedy Show Featuring TJ Miller and opening act Nick Vatterott in McCullough [SOLD OUT]



SATURDAY, FEB. 25:

7:30 p.m.: Ice Show in Kenyon Arena



10 p.m.-2 a.m.: **WINTER CARNIVAL BALL** the MAIN event – Nelson Arena. Catering by Cafe Provence, 21+ bring 2 forms of ID, featuring DJ Funk-Master Flex from NYC Hot 97FM



SUNDAY, FEB. 26:

2 p.m.: Ice Show in Kenyon Arena

Role of Public Safety debated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commented on Stanford's policy, arguing that if students were allowed to drink in their hallways, it would ensure safer drinking and foster student bonding.

Task force member Nathan LaBarba '14 responded to open door policies by expressing concern over the liability of Public Safety and questioning its role under such a system.

Director of Public Safety Linda Burchard, who has previously worked at Stanford, expressed similar concerns over liability.

"I'm not sure that an institution can just say, 'Look the other way,'" she said, citing the inherent conflict of allowing students to drink safely in dorms when the law states that anyone under the age of 21 cannot drink alcohol.

The topic of the presence of Public Safety and student accountability proved to be a contentious subject. Some argued that it was too idealistic to expect the campus to hold itself accountable, while others said that students show responsibility when they need to and thus should be encouraged to do so more regularly.

"Trends at Middlebury are toward more liberty for more accountability," said Hudson Cavanagh '14. "It's hard to see the absence of Public Safety in freshman dorms."

Dorm damage, using Public Safety as a resource and the lack of ownership taken by students in the College's culture were also discussed.

FIRST-YEARS SEEK DIVERSITY

A forum pertaining to first-year social life was held in the Allen Lounge on Wednesday, Jan. 25. Students from all five Commons were in attendance, all of whom expressed a variety of opinions on issues ranging from the role of social houses as perceived by underclassmen to the effects of the College's current alcohol policy in first-year dorms.

Rod Abhari '15 compared the College's alcohol policy, which he considers "skewed specifically toward freshmen" to that of other schools. He spoke in favor of Stanford University's "open door" policy. One argument supporting the policy is that binge drinking would decline, as students would not feel the need to drink rapidly behind closed doors in order to avoid punishments associated with getting caught.

There was also much complaint about the lack of diversity in current social programming on campus. Anish Johri '15 expressed a dissatisfaction with the repetitive nature of weekends, citing routine pre-games followed by parties at social houses.

"I feel like if there were more daytime activities, that might allow people to say, 'It's okay if I don't go out tonight because I already had fun during the day,'" said Blake Shapkinsky '15. Others suggested that alternative, College-organized events, such as the Brett Dennen concert and theme parties, would reduce the focus on alcohol.

Ritter asked first-years in attendance what would motivate them to organize their own social events.

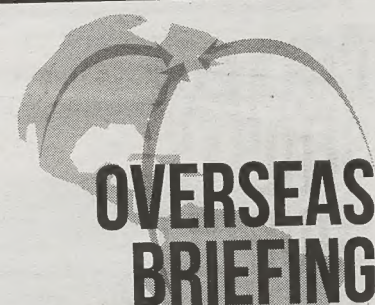
"What would incentivize us is a change in the atmosphere from social houses," said Abhari. "Instead, to meet people in a setting that's less about dancing and drunken culture than about talking and getting to know them."

Both Smith Abbott and Cook Commons Coordinator Linda Schiffer informed the audience that there were resources available for first-years to realize their own social visions, such as Commons Councils, which can organize and provide sponsorship for events.

MOVING FORWARD

After the forums had concluded, Ritter believed them to be helpful in ensuring that the task force was on the right track in addressing on-campus issues surrounding alcohol. He noted the generally low attendance rates at each of the forums, but said that the quality of discussion was excellent in spite of the number of students who took part in the talks.

The task force now plans to discuss feedback collected at the forums and will write recommendations to make amendments to College policy as they see fit. Recommendations will be completed by April and will discuss a range of issues and ideas, ultimately leading to policy changes that will have both immediate and longer periods of implementation.



BY STEPHANIE MORONEY '13
Copenhagen, Denmark

I thought it would be hard to go abroad to a place with a colder winter than Vermont, but Copenhagen has proved me wrong. The Danes, however, are hardly fazed by the whipping winds and freezing temperatures, and continue to bike through the city streets, and even over the frozen lakes for an easy shortcut. They are kept warm by the overpowering phenomenon of *hygge*. It is a Danish term that has grown out of the cold, dark Scandinavian winters, when Danes gather around a source of warmth together.

Hygge has no exact translation in English. It's a feeling of coziness, fellowship, security and well-being. But this loose translation still does not adequately describe what *hygge* really is. *Hygge* is going out with a few friends to a cozy little café where the couches and chairs overflow with pillows and blankets are closely arranged around the coffee table. Candles are burning throughout the small room and the lights are dimmed so low that you can barely tell they are on. There is plenty of good food, drink and merriment. Raise a toast and feel the warmth and cheer flow around the table. That is *hygge*.

My visiting family has captured the essence of *hygge* in their small home outside of Copenhagen. Spending time with them has been one of my favorite parts about being in Denmark. Since I live in a building with all Americans, I had the option of having a "visiting family" to act as a host family, except I do not live with them. I love going over for dinner, where *hygge* is always present. The fire steadily burns, candles glow and there is never a lack of good food or friendly banter. When invited to a Danish dinner you should be prepared to spend at least three hours there. Danes generally have a stoic façade and tend to keep to themselves in public, but once you sit down with a Dane or two they can talk forever. When I go over for dinner, there are usually a few courses, including soup, salad, bread and lots of meat.

The last time I went we had a traditional Danish dish of fish meatballs called *fiskefrikadeller*. The most delicious desserts, ranging from traditional cakes and pastries full of cream to fruit filled pies, always follow our dinners. Desserts and pastries are one thing the Danes really know how to do well, adding to the feeling of *hygge*. The streets are filled with bakeries and cafés with the most delicious rolls, muffins and pastries. Be careful, though, because a small cup of coffee is impossible to get for less than 25 kroner, which converts to about five American dollars. Whatever happened to a cup of Dunkin' Donuts coffee for \$1.49?

Next weekend we will be celebrating *Fastelavn*. It is often described as the Nordic Halloween, where children dress up in costumes, collect candy and play *slå katten af tønden*, which translates to "hit the cat out of the barrel." In Medieval times, a live cat would be placed in a barrel and children would beat the barrel with sticks until it broke and the cat escaped. It would then be chased out of town, taking bad luck and evil spirits with it. Nowadays candy is placed inside the barrel, much like a piñata. *Fastelavn* marks the time before Lent and Danes celebrate by eating as much as possible before the fast begins.

Eating, being with friends and family, celebrating life and having a generally *hygge* time is what makes Copenhagen so great. I have fallen in love with this *hygge* culture and am so excited to see what the next three months will hold.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG FEBRUARY 16-19, 2012

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/16/12	10:30 p.m.	Fireworks Possession	Fireworks Possession	Battell Beach	REFERRED TO COMMONS DEAN
2/17/12	4:49 p.m.	Missing Juvenile	Child found	Axinn Center at Starr Library	Case closed
2/18/12	11:53 p.m.	Open Container	Possession	Adirondack Circle	Case closed
2/18/12	7:34 p.m.	Fire Alarm	Cooking	Battell Hall	Case closed
2/18/12	1:00 a.m.	Property Missing	Coat and jacket	Earhart	Open
2/19/12	2:50 a.m.	Vandalism	College property	Voter	Case closed
2/19/12	unknown	Attempted Burglary	Unknown	Battell Hall	No suspects

The Department of Public Safety reported giving 27 alcohol citations between 2/16/2012 and 2/19/2012.

COLLEGE SHORTS

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

COMPILED BY ALLISON FORREST

Men less likely to study abroad

Research shows that women are more likely to study abroad than men due to multiple factors. During the 2009-2010 academic year, women accounted for nearly two-thirds of American students going overseas, a trend that is consistent with the last two decades.

Although some argue that students who go abroad are more likely to major in the female-dominated majors of foreign language and other humanities, business majors are the second-largest group going abroad.

Samantha Brandeur, the director of study abroad at Gettysburg College, attributes the low proportion of men studying abroad to a "bro mentality," which she believes leads male students to be more reluctant to leave their campus and established friend group.

According to Jill McKinney, associate director of Butler University's Center for Global Education, women more commonly go abroad because "they [feel] pressure to check it off the proverbial to-do list," rather than travel later on in life.

— The Chronicle of Higher Education

Scholars seek to expand online impact of research

An emerging field aimed to measure influence of scholarly research on social media is gaining traction among researchers. Altmetrics, which is short for alternative metrics, aims to measure the impact of internet-driven scholarly interactions. These interactions include how much research is tweeted, blogged about and shared on websites, such as Facebook.

Jason Priem, a third-year graduate student at the School of Information and Library Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, believes that altmetrics has the potential to make groundbreaking discoveries about the impact of scholarly information and how it can best be shared.

Although he believes in the importance of peer-reviewing and article citations, he and other researchers are working on an altmetrics project called Total-Impact, which attempts to measure the impact of various scholarly publications.

This new field of research is trying to make information more readily available to the average Web-user, allowing each individual to locate articles related to their interests.

— The Chronicle of Higher Education

Penn State students continue tradition of THON

Students at Pennsylvania State University continued the tradition of THON, a 46-hour marathon of non-stop dancing, which raises money to fight childhood cancer.

The dance marathon, which occurred between Feb. 17 and Feb. 19 shattered last year's record on \$9.8 million, this year raising \$10,686,924, making it the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

Amidst the Jerry Sandusky child-abuse scandal and the death of former football coach Joe Paterno, students were determined to continue the fight against pediatric cancer.

Paterno, who was an avid supporter of the event, spoke there in 2009. "He's in all of our hearts," Jennifer Evans, a student at Penn State told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "But we still 'THON' on." Penn State has held THON since 1973, and since 1977 students have raised more than \$88 million for the Four Diamonds fund, which helps children at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

— The Huffington Post

PHIL dept remains understaffed

By Kyle Finck

The philosophy department is currently facing an unfortunately perfect storm stemming from increased demand for classes and decreased staffing in recent years, prompting student frustration and calls for additional professors.

There were an unprecedented 52 declared philosophy majors last may, with 43 majors and 11 minors as of last month, according to Associate Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair Martha Woodruff.

"There are a number of areas we don't have particularly good coverage [in]," said joint political science and philosophy major Josh Taylor '12. "That's not to say we don't have great professors, but they can only do so much."

Taylor noted that the department currently lacks classes in postmodernism, turn of the century American philosophy and medieval Philosophy. He said the American philosophy shortage has been a problem throughout all four of his years at the College.

"Philosophy is always going to be a small department, and I understand that, but I think an additional professor would help immensely," he said.

The present staff shortage is due in part to assistant professors Steve Viner and Lorraine Besser-Jones being on sabbatical.

"For a small department such as ours, two out of six professors on sabbatical is very significant," said Woodruff. "I know [students] want certain courses offered, but we just can't staff them. We're doing our best, and I think [students] understand that."

To the disappointment of many students, the department has not yet applied

for approval to add any new professorship positions.

"It [hiring a new professor] is a difficult, drawn out procedure," Woodruff said. "It's not as if you can have someone in two weeks."

To hire any new faculty member, departments have to apply to the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC), comprised of five tenured faculty members.

"The EAC looks at requests from all departments, knowing they have a limited amount of resources," said Dean of Faculty Jim Ralph. "The committee decides the best strategic way to allocate the positions available and passes on their recommendations to the President."

Ralph said that under College policy, the process of increasing the size of the department would take two years.

"It [any new positions] is very difficult to get because of budget cuts ... many departments are trying to get a piece of the pie but the pie is getting smaller and smaller," said Woodruff.

Instead, she has focused her energy on retaining Professor Emeritus Stanley Bates and Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus Victor Nuovo. Both were recently approved by Old Chapel and currently teach required courses, which Woodruff called "the saving grace."

"Even two additional courses a year make a big difference," she said. "Getting Bates and Nuovo back into the classroom has been a more practical and affordable solution. It's a great benefit that they can share their wisdom with students."

One result of the shortage has been a decrease in the number of non-required classes offered.

"All of us [philosophy professors] are stretched to the limit in order to provide

the required courses," said Woodruff. "I teach a range of 10 courses. Unfortunately, that means I can only offer certain courses once every three or four or even once every five years. The same is true for my colleagues."

But the department has also come up with creative solutions to strengthen philosophy course offerings by enlisting the help of out-of-department professors to teach interdisciplinary courses that provide philosophy credit. For example, Chinese Philosophy was offered in the fall and taught by History Professor Don Wyatt, fulfilling both philosophy and history distributions.

Woodruff expects the class shortage to ease next spring when professors return from sabbatical. Regardless, she acknowledged that the department might still need to apply for additional faculty in the long term due to growing interest in the discipline.

Besser-Jones said that she is worried about meeting student demands in the coming years, even if enrollment stays constant.

"I know that we all feel the pressures of the increased demand and struggle to meet the enrollment demands, while also ensuring that those students in the classroom get the best possible experience they can," she said.

"Class discussion is really an essential aspect of learning philosophy, and when classes get larger it becomes harder to maintain an atmosphere where each and every student is actively engaged in the discussion."

Despite logistical problems posed by the shortage, Woodruff said she is grateful for the increased interest in philosophy.

"It's a good problem to have."

Amid questions of unsettled debts to URI, new MCSE director resigns

By Ian Stewart

Less than three weeks after the opening of the Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship (MCSE), the College reported the resignation of the center's founder and senior director, Dan Doyle. His finances, including those associated with the non-profit Institute for International Sport that he founded and chaired, have recently come under scrutiny. The Rhode Island state auditor confirmed last week that the Institute could only account for \$163,000 of a \$575,000 state grant furnished in 2007 for the construction of a new building for the Institute. Director of Public Affairs Sarah Ray wrote that "personal reasons" caused Doyle to leave his position.

"We have a son who's 41 who lives at home with us, and he's autistic, and I was finding that being away from him is very difficult," Doyle — who had been commuting from Connecticut for months — said on Feb. 15. "It was very difficult to be traveling from Hartford to Middlebury."

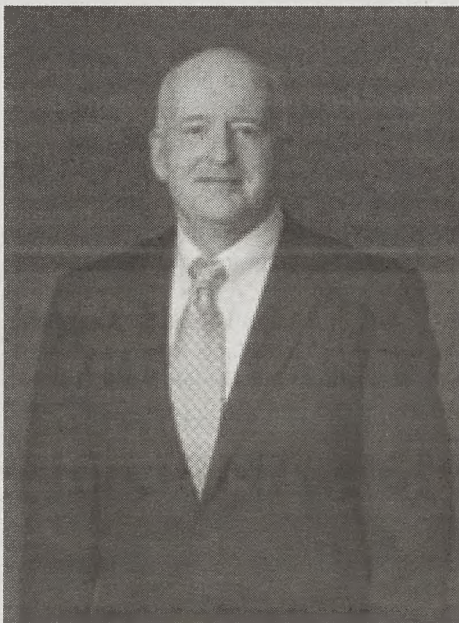
Though a Connecticut paper, The Hartford Courant, wrote that Doyle claims he intended to work with the MCSE only until its inauguration, The Middlebury Campus reported in January that Doyle had planned to move his family to Middlebury in order to work full-time at the center.

But according to MCSE faculty director Jonathan Isham, a professor of economics at the College, his family is not his only concern.

"It's obvious right now he has very large professional challenges," Isham said.

The construction grant is not the only financial trouble facing Doyle. The Hartford Courant quoted a University of Rhode Island official who alleges Doyle's Institute owes the school \$380,000, and in December 2011, SunTrust Bank filed suit against the Institute and Doyle, calling for \$367,000 in reparations for unresolved home loans.

"I think if you give it a week or two we're



Dan Doyle has resigned from his position of senior director of MCSE.

resolving all of that," Doyle said.

Isham explained that Doyle's fiscal predicament came as "no surprise." "As the time got closer to his resignation we were increasingly aware that something was up and it was likely that he would leave," Isham said. "It didn't take much, to be honest; all you had to do was look at public filings."

He says the College carefully investigated Doyle's background while the potential extent of his involvement in the MCSE was being evaluated last fall. Special Assistant to the President Dave Donahue declined offers to comment on the specifics of Doyle's resignation or the College's assessment of his scarred financial profile.

According to a January Addison Eagle article, Doyle's responsibilities included "raising funds to support the center, developing a board, shaping its programs, and establishing strategic partnerships with other orga-

nizations." Isham — who works alongside Operations Director Elizabeth Robinson — stressed that Doyle was never to lead the center but, rather, that "his sole job was to raise money."

"The structure of having the senior team was something that Liz [Robinson] and I insisted on as a way to really honor Alan Hassenfeld's gift," Isham said. Hassenfeld, the philanthropist and former Hasbro CEO, has been the principle funder of the MCSE. "We wanted to make sure that [Hassenfeld] was in very good hands."

Hassenfeld paid off almost a half million dollars on behalf of Doyle's cash-strapped Institute in 2011, according to The Courant.

With Doyle gone — and officials hesitant to fill the spot — the MCSE has turned to College Advancement to reevaluate fundraising strategies.

"The promise of [Doyle] as a senior director is that he would bring in monies from sources that wouldn't normally give to Middlebury; obviously his resignation has rendered that moot," Isham said. "But we have other, and sometimes much, much better supporters who have that similar ability."

Despite the MCSE's recent anxieties, a calendar of events for the spring is taking form. Starting March 9, a lunchtime speaker series will bring in leaders in the field of social entrepreneurship, including Alan Harlam, the head of an equivalent center based at Brown University.

"We're looking at addressing social issues in creative ways and maximizing social impact," said Associate Director of Operations and Development Heather Neuworth '08 in January of the MCSE's objective. Before the center's opening, both she and Isham highlighted the importance of a strong beginning.

"The success of this kind of effort, like so many efforts, will depend on its rigor and its accountability to know that we're getting the most out of every dollar," said Isham.



Magic Hat
Brewery revels
in creativity
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LOCAL

The Middlebury Campus

A New Era in Agriculture? NOFA-VT conference gives hope to the local foods movement

By Liia Koiv-Haus

Farming enthusiasts of all ages gathered at the University of Vermont during the last weekend of February break, Feb. 10-12, for the Northeast Organic Farming Association conference to discuss the future of food in Vermont. The student-run Middlebury College Organic Farm (MCOF) sent a dozen students to the conference to connect with people on the forefront of the local foods movement.

"NOFA never fails to remind me how much there is to learn about organic farming."

SARA BACHMAN '13.5

Activities at NOFA, besides feasts on free samples galore, ranged from seminars meant for advanced commercial growers to interactive workshops for anyone interested in agriculture. Some of the most popular among Middlebury students were "Herbs and Weeds: How to Tame and Delight in Wild Flavors" and "Making Pickle Products at Home."

While Midd Kids seemed to prefer the hands-on workshops, there were also seminar-style lectures ranging in topic from "Food Justice and Labor Rights" to "Wild Mushroom Foraging for Personal Use or Added Income."

Saturday's keynote address was given by Vern Grubinger, coordinator of the USDA's Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Grubinger outlined his vision of a roadmap to resilience for Vermont's food system, explaining why the state

should increasingly support local agriculture in order to maintain stability in the face of climate change and rising oil prices.

While Grubinger's address gave the audience a practical approach to resolving issues in our food system, Sunday's keynote speaker Wendy Johnson captivated the audience in a more spiritual way. Johnson, a Buddhist meditation teacher and organic gardening mentor who hails from the San Francisco Bay Area, brought some laid-back California vibes to a room mostly full of Vermont farmers and college students.

With her Jane Goodall-esque silver-white hair and calm demeanor, she was the quintessential aged hippie. Johnson started off her speech looking out the window at the bleak Vermont landscape, jokingly lamenting having to leave the "paradise" of California sunshine to come here, all the while commending Vermont farmers for making the most of such a short growing season.

Johnson works as a mentor to the Chez Panisse Foundation's Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, famous for being the first educational garden in the U.S. Jay Leshinsky, former manager of MCOF, used to work with her before he helped start Middlebury's garden. They're still close — during her workshop on "Building Resiliency with Mentors," Wendy gave a shout out to Leshinsky and the "beautiful students of Middlebury College."

She reminded all the conference attendees "how deeply our lives intertwine with the elemental world" and how important it is to remain grounded and optimistic in times of challenge and change.

Overall, the conference was a refreshing change of pace from busy college life. "NOFA

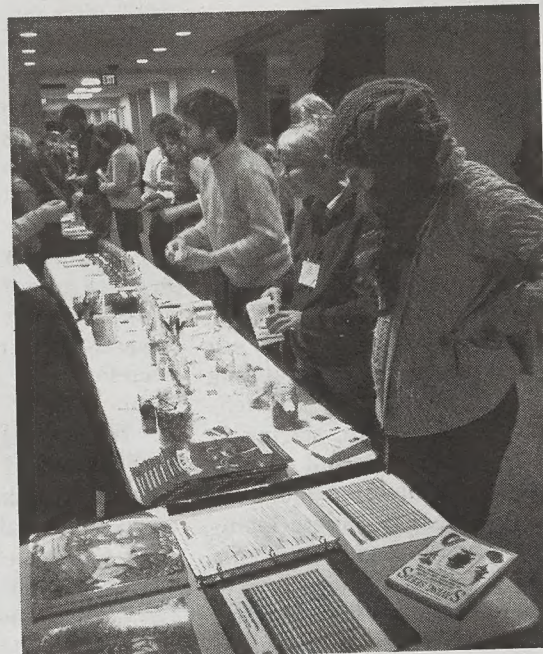
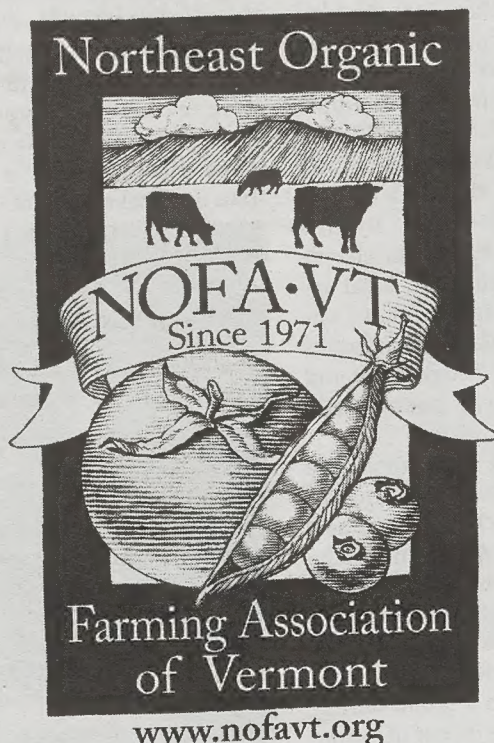
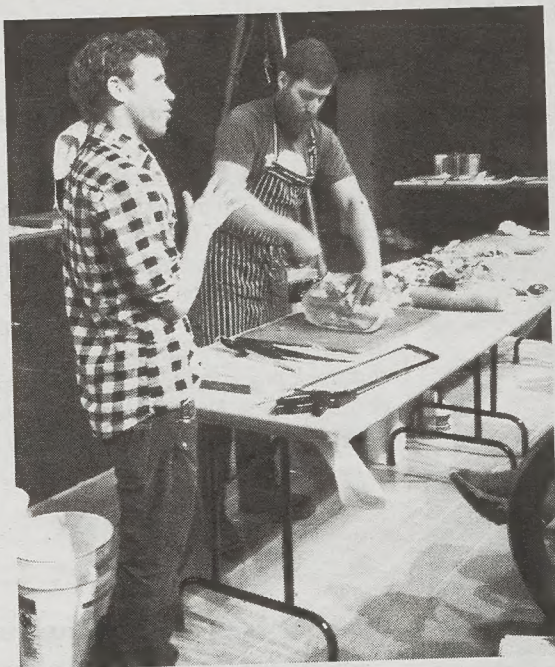
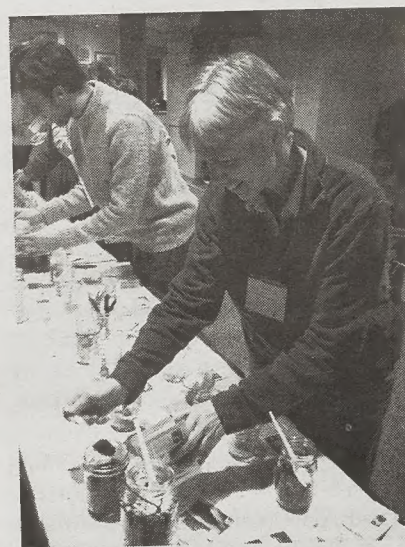
never fails to remind me how much there is to learn about organic farming," said Sara Bachman '13.5. "The entire weekend is inspiring; the congregation of farmers and passionate individuals always instills in me hope and a needed sense of power."

A gathering like NOFA, in which different age groups share ideas and collaborate, can be beneficial to farmers because they can learn new techniques and network with others. The organic farmers who have been in the business for years and survived up against subsidized products from conventional farms already know what works. From trial and error, they have a better idea of what it takes to balance profits and sustainable practices than the younger farmers.

On the other hand, they might be more hesitant to try new things for fear that their farm can only go downhill, while beginning farmers are more idealistic and feel they have nothing to lose. Moreover, the younger generation is more aware of recent advances in technology that could benefit already established organic farms.

The attendees at the conference this year seemed younger than in past years, perhaps a sign that there are more beginner farmers emerging in Vermont. After a hiatus during the baby boomer era, which emphasized efficiency and profits in agriculture over intimacy and awareness of food sources, it seems local farms are making a comeback.

As times are changing, and as the world becomes more interconnected through technology, ideas are being dispersed like wildfire and access to locally-sourced food is becoming more feasible for people of all backgrounds. Conferences like NOFA prove to be a valuable resource for those at the forefront of the local foods movement.



COURTESY

Clockwise from the top: Conference participants engage in a seed swapping workshop; seed swapping workshops offer participants a chance to learn about seeds; NOFA-VT holds an annual conference at UVM to teach local farmers; one workshop included a nose-to-tail butchering lesson with Greylock Farm.

There's beer Magic brewing

By Molly Talbert

Drinking beer is easy, but making it is an art form as demonstrated by the dedication, passion, and knowledge of the brewers at Magic Hat Brewing Company in South Burlington, Vt.

Although the current brewmaster, Justin McCarthy, stumbled upon a job at Magic Hat nine and a half years ago when he was looking for any kind of work, he is now committed to the art of brewing craft beer, which is Magic Hat's specialty.

"There are 5,100 gallons in each brew," McCarthy explained. "We do six brews a day, four to five days a week. You can do the math," he smiled while walking around a mash kettle that contains roughly 3,400 gallons of wort – a liquid with a high sugar content that is a step away from being fermented.

"We do a lot of English-style beers here," said McCarthy. "But, really, we don't like to be held down by that since it can hinder the creative process."

The creativity of Magic Hat is clear in everything from their website design, to the amount of merchandise in their "artifactory" in South Burlington, to the popularity of their three year-round beers: #9, Circus Boy and Single Chair.

"We love making beer and we want high-quality products but, at the end of the day, it's beer, and we want people to have fun," said McCarthy of Magic Hat's philosophy.

The fun that the brewers have at Magic Hat is seen in the creative license that they have, with plenty of opportunities to come up with new and innovative beers such as the Juniper Rye, an English style ale on tap at the artifactory, and the upcoming honey wheat IPA, whose recipe McCarthy came up with and that will be made with local honey, and be part of a Vermont-only spring series.

But Magic Hat also has other interesting projects besides just brewing fan-

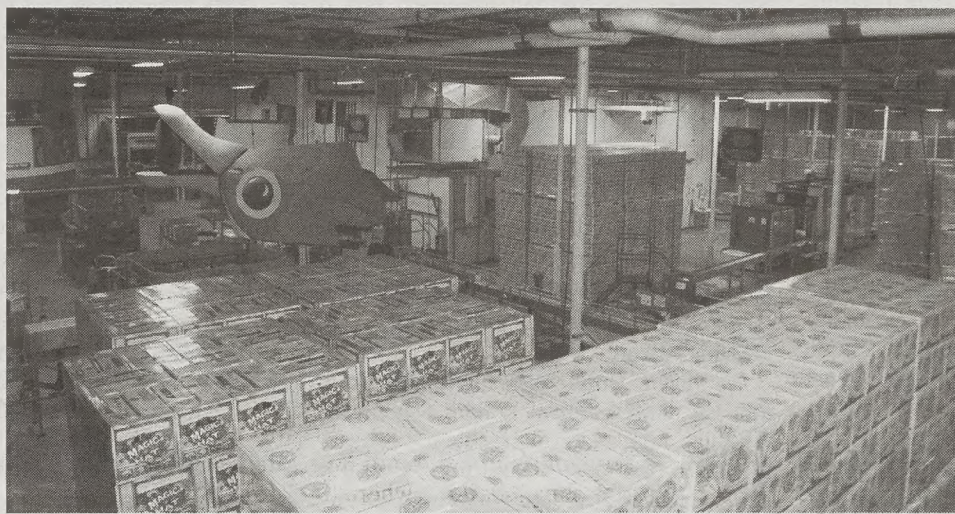
tastic and innovative beer.

"We're working on finishing up an anaerobic generator that would be powered by yeast," said McCarthy. "There is so much waste in a brewery - things need to be chilled, lights - and the energy from the generator would go back into the grid and help offset our energy."

Here's how the generator works: Magic Hat skims off excess yeast from their brews and is able to reuse it for future beer (with an ale, the yeast is on top, making it easy to reuse, whereas in a lager, the yeast is on the bottom). Sometimes, though, they produce too much yeast and have nowhere to put it. This would be the perfect solution to that problem.

Magic Hat also takes their "spent grain," what expert brewer Nathan Burk describes as "what is left of the malted barley after the mashing process," to a dairy in Addison County for cows to eat.

Regardless of the other projects that Magic Hat may have, it all relates back to the beer that they brew and the customers that expect consistency and quality.



MOLLY TALBERT

The whimsical feel of Magic Hat is evidenced by the presence of a large collection of witty signs and creature artwork, such as this bird sculpture, on the factory floor.

FARM FRESH



BY RACHEL PORTER

Winter Term provided me the opportunity to spend a month living and working in New York City. Needless to say, this set-up left little to be desired. Outside of my work schedule, there was plenty of time to get lost in the city that never sleeps and immerse myself in what, I have come to agree, is one of the most exciting places on the globe.

It is on one of these immersive adventures that I found myself standing in front of a deli counter, inside a well-known, chain grocery store, staring at what appeared to be a case full of local cheese. I was immediately intrigued, as it had been my quest to satiate looming hunger that had brought me to this grocery store in the first place. However, upon further inquiry, I found myself staring at a round of cheese produced by, the very familiar, Blue Ledge Farm. For those of you who are regulars at the Middlebury Farmer's Market, you will know that Blue Ledge Farm is a nationally renowned, family-run goat farm, located in Leicester, Vt., that has been producing homemade cheese for the last 12 years. It was surprising to me to be in a new city and stumble upon a brand of cheese that I had previously considered to be a unique and "local" product of Middlebury. This "mislabeling" was

confusing to me as I wondered what the store was trying to achieve by categorizing a Vermont product as local to New York.

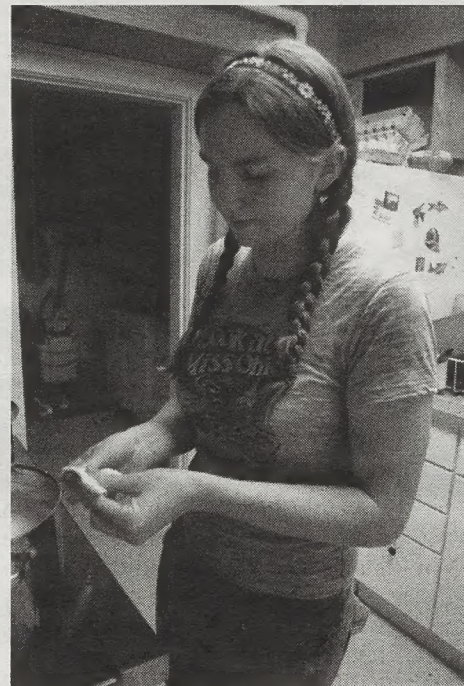
Local is an ambiguous term, often with very different meanings existing at the national, state, and county level. In 2008, Congress defined the term "locally" as "the locality or region in which the final product is marketed, so that the total distance that the product is transported is less than 400 miles from the origin of the product; or State in which the product is produced." This definition defies boundaries and instead allows local to encompass all that falls within in a four-hundred-mile-radius. By this definition, my Blue Ledge Farm cheese spotting in NYC, boasting the local label, was in fact only declaring what Congress termed it to be. Roughly 260 miles separate NYC from Blue Ledge Farm and therefore this cheese was undoubtedly local.

In an effort to learn more about the implications of eating local in Vermont, I decided to chat with cheese guru and newly minted alum, Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5. Calderon-Guthe has been making cheese ever since graduating high school and has become an invested contributor in the local foods movement. I asked her what the benefits of such a broad definition were when often the intent of eating local is to reduce unnecessary shipping.

In an email Calderon-Guthe said, "I think it speaks volumes about the importance of local food these days that even regional is considered local [...] If we know that stamping "locally made" on our products will interest consumers, it means consumers are thinking about where their food comes from, and probably also how it was made, and to

me that's more important that exactly how many miles the food traveled to the store."

Calderon-Guthe makes a valid point. Awareness is, as she notes, "the essential first step" in increasing the number of people who are considering the benefits of eating local. For me, the closer one is to the place where your food originated the more local it is. I far prefer to buy my Blue Ledge cheese from the farmer's market as opposed to an NYC grocery store; however, I agree with Calderon-Guthe that awareness is key. Local Vermont cheese in N.Y. is definitely better than no local cheese at all.



JEANNIE BARTLETT

Expert cheese maker, Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5, demonstrating her art in her Winter Term workshop.

LOCAL LOWDOWN

24

ST. PETER'S FISH FRY

Take a break from Asian carp and come to a fish fry in Vergennes! Enjoy fresh baked haddock, macaroni and cheese, fries and green beans at Saint Peter's Parish Hall. Bring a dessert to share and \$9 for food to eat comfort food to your hearts content.

SCHOOL OF ROCK & ROLL CONCERT

Love rock concerts? Love free stuff? This free rock concert at the Town Hall Theater is the culmination of a week-long intensive program for talented young musicians who have been perfecting their songwriting and fine tuning all of the elements that it takes to play in a rock band. Hosted by a fellow rocker, Clint Bierman, and other local and awesome musicians.

FEB. 24, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

SNOWSHOE/HIKE

Are you looking to explore the Vermont woods this weekend, but running out of trail ideas? Nola Kevra of the Middlebury Area Land Trust is leading a snowshoe trip (or hiking trip if there is still no snow) through the woods of Ripton. So grab some snowshoes from the gear room and head up the mountain. There will also be homemade trail treats! Call (802) 388-6107 for directions to Kevra's house, where the group will be meeting.

VERDI OPERA LIVE BROADCAST

Like opera and wish you could go to the Met? Well, you're in luck because the Met is coming to Middlebury Town Hall Theater! "Ernani," a gripping opera with an Italian libretto that was, fun fact, the first opera to be fully recorded in 1904, will be playing. Starring three opera stars: Marcello Ciordani, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Angela Meade. Tickets \$24/\$10, available at the Town Hall Theater box office, 382-9222 or www.townhalltheater.org.

FEB. 25, 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Any history buffs out there? New Febs wanting to learn about Addison County's local history? Art Cohn, Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, will be speaking about the Revolutionary War gunboat Spitfire and its part in the epic Battle of Valcour Island that took place in Lake Champlain in 1776 at the Addison Fire Station. Donations are requested from non-members and light refreshments will be served.

Feb. 26, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

LEAP YEAR BIRTHDAY PARTY

Stoked that this year you can finally celebrate your birthday? Tired of your friends making jokes about how you are finally turning five? The Illsey Library in Middlebury is throwing a birthday party for all the leap year babies complete with cake and leap year tales. Join other Feb. 29 birthdays for the kind of party that only comes around every four years.

FEB. 29, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.

A call for a current events forum

The EDITORIAL

represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

It is safe to say that most students here are actively engaged with the world's issues. While this fact is partly due to the type of interested students that Middlebury attracts, much credit must be given to the College for ensuring that students leave with both a broad knowledge of world affairs and the ability to think critically and openly about these events. And this awareness is due, in large part, to the College's pool of knowledgeable professors, who ensure that students keep sight of

global issues, whether through classroom discussion, extracurricular forums and lectures or even passing conversations.

It is because of this dedication and expertise that we were surprised to find on-campus forums and panels pertaining to the current debate over contraception and the Affordable Care Act to be practically non-existent. For the past several weeks, major newspapers have been filled with both stories and op-eds about these heated social issues and their implications for not only women's health, but also the government's reach into rights and religion. Some are even referring to a political crossroads and questioning America's moral future.

Along with discussions on abortion, gay marriage and changing demographics of motherhood, much of the current debate centers on whether or not religiously affiliated institutions, such as universities and hospitals, can legally continue to exclude contraceptive coverage from their insurance plans.

The fundamental issue here is about the role that science and religion play in government policies. But a second concern — one of equal importance — is also the role that social issues and women's bodies play in the politics of an election year.

But no matter our individual opinions on any of the aforementioned issues, we cannot overlook the potentially huge impact these debates may have on our lives. Whether you decide to use it or not, contraception is an issue that affects most college students. Just one glance at Midd Confessional makes it inescapably clear that Middlebury students have sex on their minds. And although Middlebury's secularism may protect the institution from having to compromise its policies surrounding reproductive and sexual health, we must not neglect the fact that we too will enter the post-college world without Parton's support and constant supply of condoms and without student healthcare.

So while we commend Middlebury's attention to pressing global affairs and internationalism, we ask that the administration commit the same energies to promoting engagement with domestic issues, especially ones that are so pertinent to students. In the past, the College found great success in the widely attended forum held on WikiLeaks. Topics such as the current debate over contraception are incredibly complex and nuanced and therefore lend themselves well to an interdisciplinary approach. A forum pertaining to the current debate could involve professors from departments such as political science, religion, WAGS and economics, just to name a few. Middlebury professors are extraordinarily knowledgeable in an array of academic realms, and we call on them to engage us in on-campus discussions of domestic policies — especially in an election year.

The Middlebury Campus

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The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

Let's all chill out.

When my dad graduated from college, in 1975, he was in Italy. He didn't go to college in Italy; his college, where he had spent his first three undergraduate years, was located in St. Louis, a couple of hours from his hometown. He

was in Italy studying abroad for his senior year — he was in Italy because he wanted to escape from the Midwest, for the

first time in his life, to an exotic world of literature and art and food and culture. He stayed there, illegally, for another year and a half, working in a tourist shop in the hills above Florence and living alone in a small remote cabin with no heat or running water, where he read voraciously and wrote — poetry, reflections on his reading and his life. After he left Florence, he spent a few months painting houses with a friend in Florida before taking the 48-hour Greyhound to San Francisco — to him, a city at least as exotic as Florence. After sleeping on an acquaintance's couch, he found a tiny studio apartment in the Haight district and, in the want ads, a position as a freight forwarder at a shipping company. He took up aikido and read more books until he met my mom and decided to become a teacher.

Many, if not most of us, could probably tell stories like this — our parents messed around and did some unusual things back in the '60s, '70s

and '80s. Just last week, my poetry professor, Jay Parini, mentioned that he picked up Joseph Campbell's *Hero With a Thousand Faces* while digging ditches for a living after college. After graduation, they waited tables, bartended, moved around and bummed around; they painted houses and dug ditches while figuring out where to go from there.

To me, a jobless senior anticipating the approach of graduation like John Donne anticipated death, such a world seems unimaginable. I suffered through the fall, with the majority of my friends applying for and accepting jobs in finance and consulting, by alternately reassuring myself that those jobs are "boring" and that I, being more enlightened, will find something "fulfilling," and having panic attacks. It seems that everyone these days is having serious conversations with experienced adults about entering "industries" and embarking on "careers," about becoming "successful professionals." I can't even walk by the EIA without my skin crawling. The fact that I don't own a single matronly J. Crew "interview dress" sometimes makes me want to cry.

What bothers me is this: that we're so preoccupied with getting a "real" job, with being "successful" in some sense — pleasing our parents, living up to some ideal image of ourselves, earning a lot of money or pursuing a noble passion — that we're getting our priorities mixed up, and we're missing our senior year. Maybe it's just me. (These reflections serve at

least as much to assuage my own fears as to help anyone else.) But judging from the conversations I've had again and again with seniors this year, conversations in which a strained and artificially self-deprecating flippancy or a cool haughtiness always seem to mask very real insecurities, this reminder may serve some general good.

The best advice I've gotten from the adults with whom I don't morally object to having the "after graduation" talk is that one's life after college is only an extension of the learning begun during formal schooling, and the only question is what one is going to learn about. As fearful and queasy and defeated as I sometimes feel when confronted with "job stuff," I remain convinced that this is true — moral and intellectual integrity are at least as powerful as innate drive or well-placed connections. When I graduate, I hope to do things that, above all, keep me honest with myself and with the people I love about who I am, what I want and what I feel.

We are not all deadened corporate goons bent on amassing large heaps of cash; nor, at the other extreme, are we all unfettered spirits of lofty passion, approaching life with a rabid, monomaniacal glee. We don't all have a calling. And, I think, that's okay. I think what's most important is that when we leave Middlebury and enter the next phase of our lives, we do it with honesty, with sincerity, with openness and, as best we can, without fear.

Continuing the Carmola conversation

To the Editor:

We would like to reply briefly to Arabella Holzzapfel's Feb. 16 letter. In discussing Professor Kateri Carmola's resignation or dismissal, we never said that tenured faculty should be fired only for academic dishonesty. We mentioned intellectual dishonesty, behavioral improprieties with colleagues and students and misappropriation of institutional funds (i.e. the employing institution's) as misdeeds particularly common to schools which should be grounds for termination. Reducing all that to "intellectual dishonesty," as Ms Holzzapfel does, is in itself dishonest.

Ms. Holzzapfel has every right to find our opinion "stunning." She and we obviously disagree strongly on the College's treatment of Dr. Carmola. But we wish she would direct her disapproval at something we actually said.

Sincerely,
Michael and Judy Olinick

READER OP-ED

Michael Olinick
is a professor of mathematics and
Judy Olinick is the coordinator of the Russian, German, Japanese studies departments.

Lady bloggers

I have a vivid memory of watching an MTV promo in PJs and eating breaded chicken with ketchup while my babysitter, Rita, helped my sister take a bath. It was early 2011. Ha! Just kidding; I was seven or eight. The promo featured a teenage girl sneaking into her younger sister's room to french kiss a poster of the Backstreet Boys' punky chanteur A.J. McLean. Obviously, this girl was all I knew of how to be hip in the '90s — she was an older sister (same here!), wore a tank top (there she was a little ahead of me ... I didn't take the plunge until I was 22), and probably wasn't a virgin. I knew even in my youthful innocence that I simply *had* to

THAT THING DOWN THERE

Joanna Rothkopf '12
is from Washington, D.C.

be her. So, while my sister bathed, I, too, snuck into her room and had a private moment with her requisitely framed A.J. And as I licked his glossy magazine teeth, I felt closer to the beacon of post-adolescent cool that was MTV Girl, and I felt optimistic that I wouldn't be such a terribly lost child forever.

I maintained a desperate grip on similar pop representations of how to be throughout my adolescence. I spent hours pouring over websites like gURL.com that claimed "a different approach to the experience of being a teenage girl." Throughout high school I continued to seek examples of better-than-Joannas in the media, secretly buying copies of *Cosmopolitan* with my girlfriends, and reading their sex tips at 1 a.m. under their covers, at once shocked, ashamed and nervously aware of my newly awakened libido. I soon became interested in music and started reading *Nylon*; I wanted to be thin, so I read *SHAPE*; I became ambitious and turned to the essays in the back of *Glamour* about 20 girls under 30 who were going to change the world. These images of desirable potential consumed me but I would be lying if I said that the struggle to choose what *kind* of woman I want to be doesn't still torture me.

But the mission of these female-interest publications does not exist unchallenged. In her *n+1* article, "So Many Feelings," writer Molly Fischer broached the question: what happens when female-interest blogs (and all publications for that matter) break with their espoused ideology in favor of being honest? Fischer employs my mainstay, Jezebel.com, as her primary example. The blog started as a shockingly honest account of the female experience, proudly boasting the slogan, "Celebrity, Sex, Fashion for Women. Without Airbrushing." In its original incarnation, Fischer notes that the site was crass, even disgusting: "Jezebel's appeal had as much to do with exuberant provocation as it did with inclusion. 'It was thick and brown and foul,'

[Moe] Tkacik wrote of the liquid that issued from a 10-day-old tampon. 'I wanted to say it smelled sort of like Vegemite tastes, but that's too kind.'"

The site's contributors celebrated being exceptionally inclusive, while maintaining flippant, bad girl personae, an unstable combination that threatened collapse. The tenuous mixture of tones was put to the test at a talk called "Thinking and Drinking" with comedian Lizz Winstead, during which contributors Tracie Egan and Tkacik got wasted and joked about rape and STDs. "Egan said she had never been sexually assaulted because she was 'smart' and lived in Williamsburg. Tkacik said that she didn't report her own date rape because she 'had better things to do, like drinking more.' Egan called pulling out 'the most fun way not to get pregnant.'" Now, I am appalled by many of the things the writers said in this interview, but the fact that they were brave enough to speak as women without speaking for the whole gender is admirable and nearly impossible in a society that demands ideological consistency from women who self-identify as feminist or otherwise. But Jezebel did not remain unscathed by their sacrilege, and I lament the disappearance of the bombastic, controversial, and, yes, even at times, hateful Jezebel in favor of the inoffensive pop feminism and "easy indignation" that it features today.

I want to stress that my alarm at this story does not concern whether or not Tracie Egan is or was crude. When a writer like Gawker's Max Read writes some verging-on-cruel post about a fellow male writer, there's no narrative that he's straying from or abiding by. He gets to be an intellect sans associations or loyalties while his female counterparts have been forced to contextualize themselves within the current state of feminism. When Moe Tkacik spoke indelicately about her experience with rape, why was she accused of tarnishing the female sex? Why did I as a high-schooler go on three-hour binges of reading provocateur Tucker Max's disgusting essays and why has Tucker Max not yet been excoriated like Egan and Tkacik who sheepishly retreated into print media and TV show recaps after their publicity gaff? Why can't an obnoxious woman be an obnoxious person just as an obnoxious man doesn't have to fear destroying the good standing of his sex? The efforts of the aforementioned publications to aid in my generation's attempt at self-definition is at least harmless, if not productive, however, in choosing a publication to associate with (and with it a demographic) society demands that you exist within the parameters that it has set for you. Ultimately, women cannot break free from these imposed ideological constraints until we stop conforming to them.

State of the Union

Last month, President Barack Obama went to the U.S. Capitol to deliver his 2012 State of the Union Address — the last such speech before he faces the voters of this nation for the second time in November.

In this year's address, President Obama outlined a bold vision for the nation, focusing, of course, on the growth of the recovering economy. He reported to Americans that over three million jobs have been created in the last two years. Many of these jobs came in the manufacturing sector, long thought to be in a state of irreversible decline.

The president, however, recognized how much more work remains in reviving the economy. He proposed eliminating tax deductions for businesses shipping jobs overseas and giving these benefits to companies that hire American workers. He also promoted re-training programs to help those out of work readapt to a changing economy.

President Obama stressed once again that education holds the key to American prosperity in the 21st century economy. For college students like us, the president

proposed yet another series of steps to reduce the debt burden of a post-secondary education. He advocated for extending the tuition tax credit and doubling the number of work-study jobs within five years. In addition, the president called on colleges to come up with innovative solutions to keep tuition costs from ballooning to new heights.

At a time when tough decisions are being made in Congress to slash deficit and debt, President Obama insisted that the U.S. government continue its long-standing support for research and innovation. This "promise of innovation," he said, can help the nation become more energy independent and efficient. Finally, he called on Congress to make sure that all Americans pay their fair share of taxes. It is common sense, he said, to ask Warren Buffet to pay at least as much as his secretary.

In outlining the achievements of what his administration has already done and putting forth a bold vision for the near and far future, the president shows that he isn't afraid to take on big challenges or compromise to get things done. That's the kind of leadership America needs right now. That's the kind of leadership you should support this election year.

Is Romney "right" for the party?

Conservative political pundits and registered Republicans voting for the candidate to face Obama in the general election have expressed concerns about Romney's conservative values. Recent polls show that social conservatives — who make up a significant portion of those that will vote in the upcoming Michigan primary — have thrown their support behind Rick Santorum. The Obama administration's attempt to require religious-affiliated groups to provide contraception coverage has bolstered Santorum's recent surge due to the former Senator of Pennsylvania's campaign focus on social issues. Thus, as Santorum defends conservative values, doubts about Romney's fluency with the Republican Party line escalate.

Yet Santorum's track record is riddled with government spending, which contradicts a principle tenet of conservatism: small government. While the separation of church and state and Obama's disregard for the Constitution are certainly important issues that the chosen Republican candidate should confront the President with in the general election, the candidate would do better rebutting the swelling of government under Obama — an issue that concerns both Republicans and Independents alike.

Currently, one out of every five Americans is dependent on Uncle Sam's assistance. As this fraction has grown, the number of taxpayers that pay for these government programs has declined. In 2010, almost 50 percent of U.S. citizens did not pay federal income tax. Furthermore, in 2011, 70 percent of the federal

government's budget was allotted to assistance programs that only increase dependence. Romney's fiscal conservatism and private sector experience would suite him well in facing these challenges created by the liberal propensity for expanding government influence.

Although Romney has been faulted for big government "Romneycare" and his support for the cap-and-trade bill, Santorum had one of the most extensive spending agendas of any Republican on Capitol Hill. He voted to raise the debt ceiling five times and voted for wastefully expensive projects, such as the "Bridge to Nowhere." The former Senator co-sponsored around 50 bills to increase spending but did not sponsor a single proposal to cut spending. In contrast, as the governor of Massachusetts, Romney cut spending to create a surplus from a \$3 billion deficit, which subsequently led to the upgrade of the state's credit rating.

In order to combat his current slump in the polls, Romney should prove his conservatism to the far right voters participating in the GOP primaries by reinvigorating concern amongst the Tea Party and the American public about the rapidly increasing rate of government spending and debt levels. Romney can portray himself as the private sector expert, ready to combat out of control government spending — something big-spending, social conservative Rick Santorum cannot.

Romney's fiscal conservatism and private sector experience would suit him well in facing these challenges created by the liberal propensity for expanding government influence.

Drawing strong conclusions from limited information

To the editor,

A recent letter to the editor presents an argument supporting Dr. Carmola's dismissal from her tenured faculty position at Middlebury College [A professor's actions viewed in another light, Feb. 16]. To paraphrase, Dr. Carmola committed a crime — embezzling funds from the Salisbury Historical Society — and should therefore face harsh consequences, including the loss of her reputation and career. The argument is tidy and axiomatic: commit a crime — pay a price and lose your job. But life is rarely as straightforward as we would like, and in the messy complexity lay hidden truths that muddy our efforts at moral clarity. Even compassionate, ethical people can make uncharacteristically flawed decisions, and thankfully, our legal system is nuanced enough to account for the breadth of human behavior. Our justice system even recognizes that people have the capacity to learn from their mistakes; given the opportunity, they can go on to become better, stronger contributors to their communities and societies.

It is true that Dr. Carmola committed a crime. The term "embezzlement," however, conjures up a host of assumptions that aren't borne out, which is why the sanction Dr. Carmola received from the State's Attorney's Office — probation, community service and an expunged record after eighteen months — is appropriate and plenty severe, yet may seem mild to someone without knowledge of the details. Prosecutors aren't known

for negotiating sentences of limited scope without good cause, as was the case here.

It is also true that, as a result of the College's subsequent response to the situation, Dr. Carmola will lose her job. In an effort to protect its reputation the College has gone too far, however, choosing a course of action disconnected from the measured response of the State's Attorneys Office. Removing an employee has the appeal of appearing clean, but it's a blunt instrument, equivalent to cutting off a limb when staunching a wound would have done as well. Instead, a strong sanction by the College short of permanent dismissal would have mirrored the limited scope of the state's sanction, while signaling to the outside world that the College had taken the offense seriously.

To those who argue that anything other than a full quarantine of the professor would have posed a danger to students, I'd say let's give students more credit for being intelligent, complex individuals who have faced or will face their own personal crises. It's when we try to maintain an illusion of perfection that we often do real harm. In the process, we ultimately deny our humanity.

Sincerely,
Susan Watson

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Katie Earle '12
from Bedminster, N.J.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Susan Watson is a
Professor of Physics.

Community — the name of the game

RED'S RANT

Caleb Cunningham '14
is from Denver, Colo.

Remember when you were deciding between colleges, trying to figure out which one was the right "fit" for you? You were looking for the perfect mixture of size/location/academic prestige/athletics/party scene/amount of Quidditch played, and aside from the obvious Quidditch advantage enjoyed by our College on a Hill, one of the chief attracting features of

Middlebury was its size. Small school means small class sizes, increased teacher involvement, more opportunity for leadership positions, more of a "community" feeling, right?

Here at Middlebury, community is the catch phrase in terms of student life, and much of what we take for granted as "simply the way Midd is" stems from the fact that our school is extremely dedicated to fostering a community experience.

The commons system? Check — people live in the same concentrated groups for their first two years on campus, generally the most formative years in terms of friend groups and the like.

Classes? Check — first-year seminars are organized by commons (also encouraging community because students are going to work more together, and generally spend more time with each other, if they are next-door neighbors), and the teacher is also the adviser for the class, providing some continuity. Class size is capped at 15, so that kids can receive full attention from the teacher. Class caps also tend to engender closer relationships between the teacher and kids, which helps to foster community — growing up, we are all surrounded by figures of varying ages, whether parents, coaches, grandparents or teachers. One of the defining aspects

of childhood — the original community — is the reciprocal existence of older role models to play the stable Dumbledore to our rambunctious Harry, the Gandalf to our youthful Merry, the Ditka to our rebellious McMahon. Therefore when we are invited to dine with our teachers at their houses, encouraged to disregard age barriers, it can only make us feel more at home.

Parties? Check — every weekend there are parties sponsored by the school, expounded in a weekly e-mail from MCAB so every student has at least a few parties in common on their weekend social calendar. It is common sense that more bro time (or, if you'd rather, "bonding") happens on the weekend when kids aren't buried under piles of textbooks and problem sets. And it also goes without saying that when people drink, party and overall get down together they become better friends (disregarding the cases when the opposite is true — i.e. Whiskey Slaps).

Liebo and the funky bunch also sponsor Community Dinners to give us free, generally dank eats so we don't have to eat pizza in Ross for the 40th day in a row. The point of these dinners (as far as I can gander) is to provide a forum for anyone feeling disconnected from the "community," and attempt to inject some mortar into the social fissures of our community.

Speaking of Liebo, the man even offers monthly walk-in office hours, when anybody can walk in and chit-chat with the man (the legend?). If telling Joe the Middlebury Student that he can walk in and give Liebo advice isn't community-building, then Tim Tebow isn't a virgin.

Extracurriculars? Check — extracurricular activities are fervently championed, and they provide intercrew

links between friend groups. Everyone brings their own social connections into the group; when those friends-of-friends become friends, different groups become connected. Through this process, Middlebury's famed social cliqueness is somewhat mitigated, thereby strengthening the oh-so-clichéd fabric of Middlebury's community.

Campus? Check — even the overall size of the school lends itself toward creating a community: we are about 2,450 strong, with only three dining halls, two main libraries, one student center/mail center, one gym and one very concentrated campus. If you do ANYTHING with regularity — check your mail after your 9:30 a.m. class, get humongous after your 2:00 p.m., pound Proctor burgs on Friday post-11:00 and pre-two-hour food coma — chances are that you will see a lot of the same people doing the same things as you at the same times. Even when your schedule is predicated upon irregularity (Exhibit A being yours truly), it's tough not to see the same people around campus. I can't tell you how many times I have randomly seen someone in Ross on Sunday morning only to be reminded of some forgotten debauchery from the night before.

Midd's petiteness is yet another deliberate attempt at community creation.

"Community?" you ask. "Look at you, Caleb Liebowitz Jr., parroting the Student Handbook. You're not a tour guide, jabrone." I feel you. This isn't some sort of school-engineered morale-builder, and Liebo did not deliver an envelope full of twenties to my room on Feb. 14th. I promise. But the truth is that, compared to many other schools, Middlebury is unique in that it truly does provide an authentically unifying

experience.

This fall I flew out to Miami University (the Ohio flavor) to visit some buds, and the contrast could not have been starker. My friends would walk from one side of campus to the other and not see a soul that they recognized. The innumerable faces we passed may as well have been ghosts — without identifying apparel such as a Phi Si fraternity hoodie or the like, the kids we passed were simply anonymous non-entities, Cartesian automata. The vast campus of verdant green quads and stereotypically college-y vine-draped Victorian buildings seemed rather conspicuously more like a Cabo San-Lucas-style resort rotating residents every two weeks for different spring break trips than a college that one could call home. In fact, the hominess of the place was the crux of the issue. I could imagine calling my parents and telling them "I'm walking back to my dorm," but not "I'm walking home."

At Miami of Ohio, or the University of Colorado at Boulder, or University X, there is no warm community feeling, no sense of home. Everyone is a Redhawks, or Buffaloes, or Ephs (just kidding, no one likes them) fan, but there can be little camaraderie when there exists little interaction between individuals. It is the sheer amount and overlapping nature of acquaintances and interpersonal connections that causes Midd to feel as homey as it does, and at some point we have to give credit where credit is due. While it may be a mite heavy-handed and feel somewhat contrived, the Middlebury institution's concentrated push to establish a community seems by all accounts to have been successful.

P.S. — speaking of contrived, I used the word "community" double-digit times in this article. Liebo should pay me.

week in tweets



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find a way to be more open to everyone
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deciding to print w/ the plotter is as stressful as deciding to sit at the other end of my crush's table at din



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okay! you don't need to aggressively skype in french w/ your abroad "friends" for me to remember that you were abroad last semester!



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feel less self-conscious when there's nothing in my mailbox #secondsemestergoals

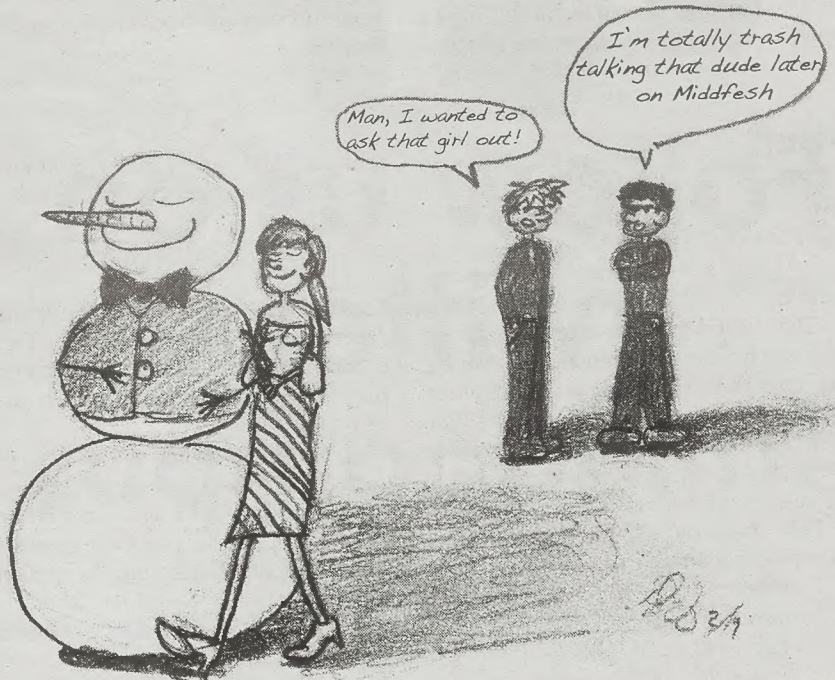
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BY DYLAN REDFORD



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BY DYLAN LEVY

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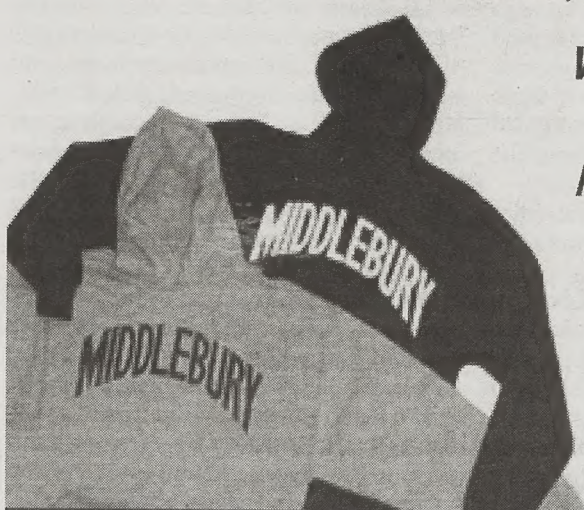
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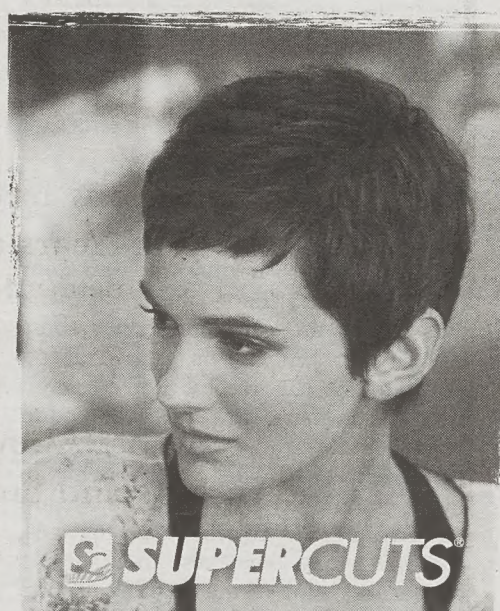
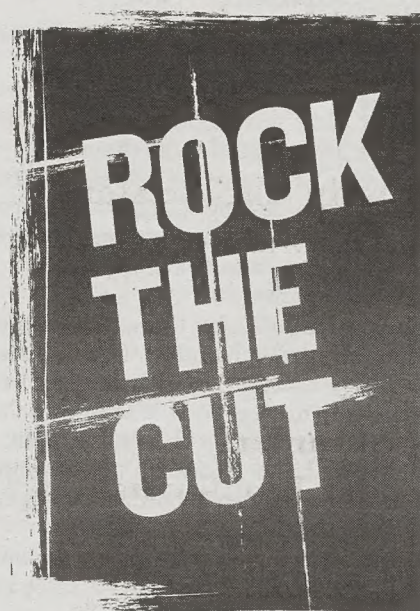
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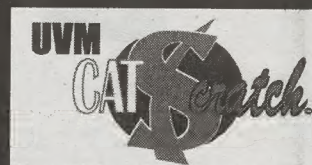
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Monday, February 27
12:15–1:15 P.M. • BiHall 220

Cook Commons Internship Info Sessions for First-Years and Sophomores

Monday, February 27
6:15–7:15 P.M. • Pearsons Lounge

Brainerd Commons Internship Info Sessions for First-Years and Sophomores

Tuesday, February 28
4:30–5:30 P.M. • Hepburn Lounge

Ross Commons Internship Info Sessions for First-Years and Sophomores

Tuesday, February 28
4:30–5:30 P.M. • Milliken 3

What About Summer? Internships and Summer Employment

Wednesday, February 29
4:30–5:30 P.M. • BiHall 220
Hosted by Student Employment Office (SEO),
Center for Education in Action (EIA),
and International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

Wonnacott Commons Internship Info Sessions for First-Years and Sophomores

Thursday, March 1
12:15–1:15 P.M. • Gifford Annex Lounge

Finding and Funding Your Summer Internship: Everything You Need to Know

Thursday, March 1
6:15–7:15 P.M. • Hillcrest 103

Atwater Commons Internship Info Sessions for First-Years and Sophomores

Friday, March 2
12:15–1:15 P.M.
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WHY CHOOSE CLASSICS?

"For me, [classics is] the liberal arts degree," said classics major Barrett Smith '13, pointing to the fact that the curriculum manages to mix a variety of the humanities — history, language, literature, philosophy, and political science. A classics major might, for instance, learn about Roman political history while reading Cicero, or study ancient philosophy while translating Lucretius.

For Associate Professor of Classics Marc Witkin, classics is about both, "understanding the ancient world itself and the range of enduring questions about the world and man that were first articulated in the literature of Greece and Rome."

And although classics places enormous emphasis on language, Witkin says that, "quite apart from the value of studying the languages as a means to gain access to the ancient texts in the original, [classics is about] how to write, how to make sense, how to speak clearly and think clearly; the study of the literature itself is a study of what human beings know and why we know it, or how we come to know it."

The department is small, which means that students find

it to be "one of the most flexible departments on campus," Smith said.

For instance, this year, his Greek professor found out that he couldn't make the scheduled Friday section of class and promptly rescheduled it for Thursday. Even in larger literature classes, which usually enroll about 25 students to Greek classes' four, professors often send out emails to students at the beginning of the semester asking what students have read and what they want to read, adjusting the syllabus accordingly.

"I feel like I've had much more of a voice in what I'm studying in the

classics department [than in others]," Smith said.

Classics majors generally see the same people in many of their classes — many of which are very small — so in addition to lots of individual attention, "students in language courses tend to have a real esprit de corps," said Witkin.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

The 14-course major is, "an enormous challenge" said Witkin, and both Smith and Witkin point to the language requirement as especially difficult. Classics majors must take at least 10 semesters of an ancient language, Latin, ancient Greek, or ancient Hebrew: six in one ancient language and four in another. At another school, this major might be called "Latin" or "Greek."

"It's very, very intensive [on language]," Smith said. And given the extremely small classes, "you absolutely have to do all of your language work because you absolutely cannot hide."

Middlebury's classics major is unique in that it also entails civilization and culture classes in addition to the language requirements. While the language classes focus on reading and translation, students in civilization classes simultaneously study the ideas behind ancient texts while reading them in English.

"It's always a mix of reading small portions of the text in original Greek or Latin, but getting a broader idea of what the author is doing form the lecture courses in English," Witkin said. "What's unique about Middlebury [is that] we have we have courses that clearly introduce students — without having to know Greek or Latin, but taught by professors who do — to the major areas of ancient history, drama, literature and philosophy in translation. You wouldn't find a classics program at a comparable-sized college that mounts that kind of effort."

In offering language and lecture courses that complement each other in this way, Witkin says, the department tries to help the student see an entire "reconstruction of the world in which the words and the text had a meaning and made sense. The same courses also attract students to the study of Greek and Latin who might not otherwise have discovered their interest."

Classics is also unique from other disciplines in the fact that majors are all expected to have read a set of the same 36 classic texts by graduation. Over Winter Term of senior year, students take a three-day exam specifically designed for each individual to test "everything you've ever learned in Latin or Greek," Smith said. The department tests students' knowledge of the 36 required texts by designing the exam to cover language skills and general knowledge through both essays and an oral exam.

WHO DOES CLASSICS?

When Smith arrived at Middlebury, he was unsure of how he would tie his interest in Latin in high school to his desire to attend medical school. Eventually, although he's still pre-med with a minor in physics, Smith says he, "settled on [classics instead of a science major] because it's a really, really challenging major and of my

classes that I took here, it felt like the most educating ... I realized my classics classes were educating me as a full person."

Although many classics majors are like Smith and studied Latin in high school, Smith says that, "There's a really cool diversity within the dept; it's not just humanities people."

One reason for this might be the great diversity of career options available to classics majors. For example, Smith remembers hearing that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) often recruits classics majors, because, "you have to show a serious aptitude in languages, critical thinking, and in reading incomplete, problematic, fragmented texts ... you have to project meaning or figure out what it's trying to say."

Maybe it is that the CIA has figured out what Witkin has known all along: that "there isn't a better training for the mind than the studying of those two languages."

WHY IS IT SO SMALL?

The study of two separate languages and civilizations is tough, and is a pursuit that Witkin equates to "having Japanese and Chinese in the same major. That's a challenge."

But aside from that challenge, "I think more people would discover the intrinsic value of studying ancient language if they discovered the intrinsic worth of ancient literature," Witkin said. "And they can only do that if they elect to take those courses in English."

Another challenge confronting the major, Witkin thinks, is the "understandable [fact] that people don't see direct relevance between their lives and this stuff. I think it's less obvious to students what majoring in classics is and how that might translate into a career. The benefits are often indirect, but employers can certainly appreciate them."

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5 MAJORS
0.3%

NUMBERS REPRESENT FALL 2011 ON-CAMPUS DECLARED MAJORS. STUDIO ART ALSO COUNTED 9 MAJORS. SOURCE: GO.MIDDLEBURY.EDU/FACTBOOK

MINI

MAJORS

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD SOMEONE SAY "I'M AN ECON MAJOR," "I'M STUDYING E.S.," "I STUDY ENGLISH"? BUT HOW OFTEN DO YOU MEET A CLASSICS MAJOR? WE THOUGHT SO. HERE'S A LOOK AT THREE OF MIDDLEBURY'S SMALLEST DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS.

BY LEAH PICKETT
GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT BY IAN STEWART

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WHAT IS WAGS?

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the program, which Professor of Theatre and Women's and Gender Studies (WAGS) Cheryl Faraone describes as studies that have "a lot to do with the lived experience."

The major has seen increasing popularity, and Faraone attributes that to both the faculty and student interest.

"There are more and more faculty who are coming in to teach in any discipline have studied gender issues, gender identity," she said. "It's becoming as normal as apple pie, and students who become aware of that want to see the integration."

The major is "very much connected to the ideas of diversity that Middlebury is becoming more and more aware of as the culture is becoming more and more aware," she said.

WAGS AND "INTERDISCIPLINARITY"

"This is exactly what liberal arts should be," said Faraone of WAGS' ability to draw connections between different disciplines.

Each WAGS major must hone in on an academic "focus area," whether geography, French or economics, and use their senior work to tie their WAGS major to this chosen academic discipline.

A WAGS major focusing on the performing arts might, for example, enroll in Faraone's class on "Contemporary Women Playwrights," a class with an explicitly WAGS focus. And like other interdisciplinary WAGS classes, this class uses the WAGS "lens" to examine the topic itself.

"Any discipline in the arts is going to have gender in it whether or not you're looking specifically for it," Faraone said.

It is this idea that the program has adopted in its approach to every academic discipline.

"Almost every WAGS class is also rooted in some other discipline, which has given me a huge opportunity to explore more areas," said WAGS major Claire Powers '12.

"And even though I'm not sure if I've ever taken a WAGS class of only WAGS majors, I kind of like it that way — it keeps things new and interesting."

Faraone says that one of the most unique aspects of the major is the fact that, "The major itself gives you a focus, and you're able to integrate it," into some other discipline.

WAGS majors see this foundation of

interdisciplinary interaction as relating strongly to the idea of a liberal arts education.

"I think [WAGS classes] really reinforce the idea of our liberal arts education; it's just one more important way to complicate and question the world around us," said Powers.

The overarching idea, Faraone says, is that, "Over the last quarter century those [disciplinary] boundaries have started becoming more permeable ... Things are not separate but can be very powerfully interconnected."

WHO STUDIES WAGS?

"One of the misconceptions is that [WAGS] is a major for women only," Faraone said. "We have courses on masculinity, heterosexuality, transgender identity ... so people who come from all of those universes are and can be WAGS majors."

Even the name of the major has progressed to help it "cast a wider net," Faraone said. The major was originally called

"Women's Studies,"

but "gender became an extremely important part of it; a lot of programs are changing their names to better reflect what the discipline is actually studying," Faraone said.

A potential name change that other schools have chosen, for instance, might be "gender and sexuality."

Faraone also thinks that since WAGS majors also have to be prepared for a good amount of unpredictability and self-directed study, the major attracts a very specific type of student.

"Because faculty in WAGS participate, not erratically, but not as frequently as you would in your home department, [the student has] to be willing to take the leap: more time talking to the adviser, more time researching options that you would in a more conventionally structured major," Faraone said. "It's the adventurous [who become WAGS majors]."



14 TOTAL MAJORS/ MINORS: 3 MALES 11 FEMALES



WHAT IS COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Professor of Computer Science Daniel Scharstein wants to make one thing clear: computer science does not mean endless hours sitting in front of a computer entering repetitive computer programs. And although he acknowledges that programming is the basic skill every computer science major must have under his or her belt, Scharstein says, "There's a misperception that computer science is all about programming. In a sense, it's one of the most revolutionary disciplines ... computer science is about being creative and coming up with new ways of looking at old problems; it's a really creative discipline."

Scharstein sees computer science as fitting into a liberal arts education from two different directions. One is the "logical, precise thinking" that one learns in the classes, and the other is in the wide array of interdisciplinary applications.

The possibilities for interdisciplinary interaction are almost limitless. Scharstein says that one can "take any discipline and put the word 'computational' in front of it, and now it's a field."

Computational physics, biology, economics and other hard disciplines can all benefit from computer science expertise. For instance, in one class offered this semester, "Computing for the Sciences," students studying science learn how to use basic programming skills to sift through data more efficiently.

"One of the coolest things about it is that even with basic programming you can make your life so much easier; you can speed up everything you're doing," said Will Potter '14.5, a computer science major minoring in economics. "In my econ classes, I don't do any math on a calculator; I do all of it on my computer. I can set up my equations, put in starting numbers and it calculates everything for me... having that facility on the comp really helps a lot."

Computer science teaches a new way of thinking, Scharstein says. "If you start looking at different problems, and say, 'well how can I apply computation to this problem?' that is a whole new perspective," he said.

WHY THE PROGRAM IS SMALL

Scharstein thinks the main challenge confronting computer science, an industry that has very high rates of post-grad employment and salaries, is advertising. "We feel like we have an advertising battle to fight," Scharstein said. "Barely any one has ... on their radar screen, 'Oh yeah, I should take computer science.'"

One problem is the fact that many students never encounter computer science in high school, and so enter other disciplines they already know they will be studying when they arrive at college before ever trying anything different.

"[Computer science] is misunderstood in that people assume it's impossible," said Potter. "It's just a foreign concept for many people, programming computers ... I think there's a huge stigma around computer science; people really scared going in ... [when] the reality is they've made it really easy to start programming with all the languages that have come out now."

Part of this was well-founded; the intro-level computer science classes at Middlebury were historically considered relatively difficult.

"We have lowered the bar a little bit," Scharstein said about the effort to attract more students to these courses through less intensive classes. However, he cautions that there's no way around the fact that, "Computer science majors do need to be able to handle that technical, logical thinking."

Despite these challenges, the program has seen steady growth since the slump it experienced after the burst of the dot-com bubble in 2000, which saw numbers dip by about half. The current 100- and 200-level classes are both full, having jumped in overall enrollment from 40 to 50 students a few years ago to over 100. This uptick at Middlebury is part of a nationwide trend, which is helped in large part by the fact that people are beginning to recognize the demand for computer science majors.

"Currently, it's really easy to find a job because there's a major shortage in the job market," Scharstein said. "Overall, part of it is the economy: word's getting out that it's a good skill to have." Also, "it's 'sexy' again to know how to program."

Essentially, Scharstein says, computer science is "one of the better-kept secrets at Middlebury."



SELECTED THESIS TITLES
AN INVESTIGATION OF VISUAL FEATURES FOR LOCATION RECOGNITION

EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF MULTIPLE MODEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHMS

TASTE CHEESE WITH CHOPSTICKS



BY JIAYI ZHU

"Are those the ears of a cat? Awww it's so cute!" I always hear people marveling at my iPhone case like that. I got the case from China, and it was made in Japan. Its name is Cats in Socks, and you can see the triangle shape ears of a black cat sticking out from the front. I also have a cute journal, cute planner and cute stationary. I use the E-moji keyboard in my phone to decorate my messages, and I'm surprised that there are no smiling face images to choose from when updating my status on Facebook.

Cute is the sweetest adjective to describe an Asian girl in general. It is as powerful as phrases like elegant and sexy here in the U.S.

The fashion magazine that I used to read when I was in high school is called *Vivi*. It is originally from Japan, but there is a translated version in China as well. *Vivi* claims to be the "Asia's No.1 fashion magazine" on its website. There are different trends in it, but I have to say, the mainstream style is definitely pink bow, white lace and vintage floral style. The models in it, regardless of their age, will always put on their innocent and harmless smile. It is like they are living in a candy store or a chocolate factory, always cute and colorful, bringing the warmth to the readers. Their readers are around the age of 20- to 30-years-old. Yes, 30. Thirty is not late for being cute.

I don't read a lot of fashion magazines here, but I think *Vogue* could be *Vivi*'s American counterpart. Browsing *Vogue*'s website, the main colors are white, black and red. It is rather simple comparing to *Vivi*'s website of knocking over the palette right in front of you. The first impression I get from *Vogue* is of elegance (and sexy if it's summer). Instead of the patterns on the clothes, it seems that the design and cut matter most. Cuteness is definitely not an essential component in *Vogue*.

Vivi is like a teenage girl who is constantly wandering in Alice's world, with her lollipop in hand, imagining herself as a princess. While *Vogue* is like an independent woman — a grown-up who has her own career to take care of and who enjoys her life in the real world.

The fashion style represents characteristics of the different cultures in some ways. I love taking photos with a peace sign next to my face; one of my friends has seven headbands that look like rabbit ears; the most popular singer in Taiwan — Jolin — has continued collecting Hello Kitty well into her thirties.

I don't think one is better than another, but as an Asian coming from a cute pop culture, I have learned the necessity of coming out into my own world here. I learned to ski during Feb break. It was hard to balance at the beginning so I constantly lost control of myself and started to speed up. My reflex action was to shout while holding my breath (expecting an angel to stop my skis). It didn't help at all; I ran into the trees and it hurt. I realized there were no others who were shouting. So I decided to keep calm and follow the instructor's words. Guess what? I learned to go down the trail after three hours of class.

Being cute makes me act like a baby sometimes. Instead of handling the situation by myself, I turn to someone for comfort, especially when it comes to sports and manual labor. Admit it or not, the expectation of girls being cute is somehow related to showing the solidity of male and the fragility of female. Although there is nothing wrong with cuteness as a fashion style, I do hope I can be more independent and strong like my friends here.

"Green" means leaving little in wake

By Geoffrey Brown

Consistent with the College's stance on environmental conscientiousness, Middlebury has recently established a local chapter of greendrinks.org, which is an international eco-think tank "aimed at connecting people informally in cities throughout the world for the purpose of brainstorming and networking on green topics in a relaxed, relatively unstructured setting," according to 51 Main's event calendar.

Greek Drinks meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 51 Main to hold informal discussions about various environmental issues. Since its inception last year, the group has discussed everything from sustainable food projects to eco-friendly winter wear. Everyone from the Middlebury community is welcome and encouraged to share their views on green solutions to ecological situations over a round of drinks.

Despite the morbidity of this week's subject, guest speakers Patty Dun and Ron Slabaugh, along with student participants, discussed at length and with enthusiasm the practical benefits of an environmentally friendly burial.

Throughout history humans have sought to overcome it and have tried to avoid it, but have generally come to accept the inevitability of death. Despite the personal and emotional process of

laying a loved one to rest, the modern funeral necessitates coffins, memorial services and cemeteries in a social ritual that some might consider both automated and impersonal. However, the rising trend of home-based or "green" funerals offers a much more intimate, eco-conscious and cost efficient alternative to commercial funerals.

According to Slabaugh, the idea behind green burial is, "to go out naturally and with as little harm as possible to the earth. Some people make the decision based on environmental values and cost, while others choose a do-it-yourself approach for spiritual and religious reasons."

These services are usually conducted out of a family member's home and typically involve placing, "an un-embalmed body directly into the earth in a biodegradable coffin or shroud with no vault or grave liner," he said.

The prospect of keeping an un-embalmed body from spoiling for several days leading up to a funeral may seem impossible however, in reality, keeping a body packed in dry ice preserves it until the burial.

"Embalming is not required by the state and doesn't really preserve the body; it serves more of a cosmetic purpose," said Slabaugh.

In the United States alone, the fu-

neral industry uses over 800,000 gallons of embalming fluid, which is put directly into the earth, 30,000,000 feet of hardwood board and 180,000,000 pounds of steel used for caskets. At the same time, funeral costs have risen dramatically in recent years, on average ranging between \$7,000 to \$10,000. Green burials can be significantly less expensive, depending on the location, and avoid the potentially detrimental effects on the environment caused by cremation emissions. Although cremation is much cheaper than a traditional burial, it requires the burning of fossil fuel and other harmful substances, such as mercury.

There have also been local initiatives to encourage the growth of green burials. In Vermont it is legal to bury loved ones on private property rather than in a costly cemetery plot under recently-introduced bill H. 584. The bill proposes that people be allowed to register their property as designated green burial grounds for other families. The Metta Earth Institute located in nearby Lincoln supports this bill and is planning on devoting some acreage for green burials should the legislation pass.

Despite the gloomy nature of this month's topic, the Green Drinks session was effective in achieving the overall goal of the organization: to discuss and educate about developing green alternatives that many people simply do not consider.

Henry the hydro-tractor comes alive

By Isabella Stallworthy

As a continuation of a multigenerational Middlebury student project, eight Middlebury students participated in a Winter Term independent project to produce a hydrogen-powered internal combustion engine to be used in a tractor. Henry — the first known hydro-tractor — has now come into existence.

The idea was conceived by two Middlebury alumni, Mark Benz '54 and Dick Catlin '54, who were interested in the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel. They bought a used 1948 Ford 8N tractor and proposed the project to the College physics department in the spring of 2008. They then found four eager students willing to take on the project. Since then, participants have passed down the tractor to be continued by a new group of physics enthusiasts — this year, for a Winter Term project. Champlain Valley Equipment donated shop space, use of tools and the technical assistance that made the project possible. It then became the task of Associate Professor of Physics Noah Graham and his class, composed of a spectrum of students ranging from first-year to senior, to get the tractor to run smoothly on hydrogen.

"A tractor is about as simple as an internal combustion engine gets," said physics major and project participant Alex Clement '12. "Our goal was to optimize the parameters that we could control to get the maximum horse power that we could from propane ... and then to run it on compressed natural gas and finally hydrogen."

Clement was charged with leading participants in the first phase of the process: outfitting the tractor with an onboard computer engine control unit. This software is similar to what is used in NASCAR and serves the function of controlling the spark and injection timing. They also overhauled the engine and added a new fuel system in

order to prime the tractor for hydrogen.

"The goal was always hydrogen, the goal is zero emissions," said Clement.

The tractor originally ran on propane gas and the class then switched it to run on compressed natural gas, which produces greenhouse gases but is still more environmentally friendly.

"For each successive fuel in this sequence it is more difficult to get the engine to perform well, but when it does, the environmental benefits are greater," said Graham.

"One of the difficulties of using hydrogen as a fuel in an internal combustion engine is that it's very diffuse," said Clement. "Hydrogen, if combusted at a low enough temperature, only produces water and it is also easy to generate."

While hydrogen offers an alternative fuel source, it also has its practicality drawbacks.

"Hydrogen does have an energy storage problem," said Clement. "[It is] is not very dense and can currently only really be stored at high pressures."

For these reasons, a tractor made sense for accommodating their first attempt at a hydrogen-powered internal combustion engine.

"You need a large fuel tank, which would not be practical for a personal vehicle," said Clement. "With a tractor, extra weight is actually beneficial."

As expected, given the fact that they were attempting such an ambitious project during the short span of Winter Term, the team did run into a few logistical problems.

"Though we admittedly had some technical difficulties, we were then limited by availability of the fuels," said Clement. "We struggled to get compressed natural gas and hydrogen in on time. We didn't get the fuels we needed until midway through [Winter] Term."

Despite setbacks, the team managed to achieve their goal.

"Usually it emits back smoke and then it was just water vapor. That was definitely the coolest part," said Lucas Avidan '15. "We got it working three days before the end of the semester. But we didn't even know if it would happen at first."

While the group succeeded in getting the tractor to run purely on hydrogen, there are still some issues that need to be addressed — one of them being that the tractor cannot yet run at adequate horsepower.

"We've only been able to get about 50 percent of the desired horsepower: 10 horsepower out of the potential 23," said Clement, noting that this shortage could be due to the old fuel regulator.

Another issue is appropriate hydrogen storage — a hydrogen storage tank is currently about the size of a scuba tank, and it requires an entire one to power the engine for only five minutes.

"Hopefully in the near future, hydrogen storage will improve and really make this viable," said Clement. "It's certainly more of a proof of concept at this point."

The future of the hydrogen tractor is hopeful for small-scale agricultural applications.

"One can imagine a scenario where a farmer has a small wind or solar installation on their own land that can be electrolyzing water at a small, constant rate," said Clement. "Every morning they could come out and fuel their tractor with the fuel they've created on their own land, at no expense to themselves, in a completely sustainable fashion."

The project will continue informally in the spring with the goal of improving performance so that the tractor can be used in a field. As for right now, as Avidan said, "We're just excited to have it running."

WINNERS LOSERS

WARM WEATHER

Suddenly, everyone on campus is constantly smiling.

PARTIES ARE FUN

First weekend back. Very little homework. Excitement.

TOUR GROUPS

Always good for making us feel special.

WARM WEATHER

This does not feel like the time for Winter Carnival.

PARTIES ARE FUN

... and four people went to the hospital on Saturday. YIKES.

TOUR GROUPS

It's exhausting being people-watched so intensely every day.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOHN HUDDLESTON

By Jackie Park

"Meditating is really interesting because we begin to look at our minds and how we actually operate in the world," said Professor of Studio Art and Co-Director of the Art Department John Huddleston. "I think mediation can help us be open to different things without over thinking them; that's really great for creative activity. That's sort of how I started meditating — to become a better artist."

Huddleston moved to Middlebury with his wife in 1987, right after finishing graduate school in San Francisco. He has now been teaching at the College for about 25 years.

"I'm actually the first photographer that they hired on an ongoing basis in the art department," Huddleston said.

"I was always a little bit interested [in photography] but I took a great photography class in college and it really inspired me to do it on my own," he said.

Afterwards he decided to do it on his own for a few years, and then ended up attending getting a graduate degree in it.

Huddleston's first introduction to Middlebury was purely by accident.

"I visited the campus ... since I came up here to ski but I didn't really know much about it," he said. "In the beginning it was just a job that I was taking to be quite frank, but you know, it's really great. There are a lot of excellent things here."

Regardless of what brought him here, Huddleston has developed a deep fondness for Vermont, as well as a growing interest in its landscapes and farmlands. He has recently published his second book titled, "Healing Ground: Walking the Small Farms of Vermont." He is currently circulating

another book proposal that focuses on the Northern forest, which is a big part of the Vermont landscape, expanding from New York all the way to Maine and then up into Canada.

Huddleston's passion for photography has been the basis for other forms of academic inquiry, evident through his publications and research projects. His first book project, "Killing Ground," which won an Andrea Frank Foundation Grant, pairs Huddleston's photography with historical photos from the Civil War.

"The Civil War was photographed a lot and it was really the first war to be documented that way," he said. "So there was a lot available for me to pair up with my pictures. It is not an exact correspondence, but all the pictures are from battlefields and scenes of terrible killing and slaughter. A lot of the places we fought in now have houses, shopping centers and gas stations. It says a lot about our culture, how it has evolved and changed."

Huddleston is currently working on a project photographing churches and historical ruins in Mexico, in a study of Mexican spirituality and its history.

Whether he is examining religious monuments in Mexico or traipsing through the Vermont wilderness, photography holds a great deal of meaning for Huddleston.

"It means a lot to me just being able to invest time in these different geographical areas and also in different parts of my life," he said. "Our connection to the Earth is hugely important and so seeing how we have treated it or what it has become is really important."

Huddleston wants his projects to go beyond just what people see at first glance.

"We can talk about the pictures in many



Professor of Studio Art and Co-Director of the Art Department John Huddleston helps a student with classwork.

different ways," he said. "But I would encourage everyone to look at my pictures and photography in general with a keen eye and an open mind and see what you can come up with. I think photography has a very intimate relationship with life — we are photographing what we are actually seeing."

While Huddleston is a talented artist, he is also a professor. While some believe that art is geared toward those who are artistically inclined, he expressed the belief that art and creative work is an important part of education and critical thinking, regardless of a student's artistic aptitude.

"I think everyone has a creative side to him or her. It is just about figuring out how to nurture that a little bit," he said. "We are a very positive and encouraging department and 80 percent of our students are not art majors. We do critique and are honest about what's working and what's not. I think what students learn in making art — coming up with a creative solution to a problem — really applies to everything. Endeavoring in that creative activity can be helpful in any line you are taking."

GLOBE MED UPDATE

Hi, my name is Joanne and I will be writing a bi-monthly GlobeMed column this term. I was born and raised in the U.S. but I moved back to Taiwan when I was five, and I have been living there since. Health issues have always been relevant to me, beginning when I was a child, as standards of living were high but the sheer amount

of people inhabiting the cities in Taiwan made

it the breeding grounds for various viral outbreaks.

There is also no doubt about my interest in the realm of nutrition and food supplies for people around the world — last semester we had the chance to focus on the burgeoning nutrition gaps between developing and developed countries and research shows that while we may have sufficient food reserves to adequately feed the entirety of the global population there are still many places that experience varying levels of famine. This raises a few questions for those of us who have shown interest about the issue of poverty and starvation: why are we incapable of dealing with the issue of global food deficiencies as a global community, and what is the cause of this deficiency?

GlobeMed's initiatives have provided an exciting opportunity for me to explore another aspect of global health in regards to other nations and initiatives in effect around the world. Our recent fundraising projects have included a Holiday Giving Campaign, Ski Race, HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and a lecture by Brian Concannon, president and CEO of Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.

We have also already raised more than \$10,000 through our recent partnership with Gardens For Health International for their Gukura project that will serve more than 120 households a year, many of which will enjoy the benefits of the new health center. The health center aims not only to provide annual tests for malnutrition and dietary diversity but also to increase dietary awareness within these families enrolled in this program. Hopefully this will foster greater independence in their abilities to provide and produce nutritious foods for personal consumption. Indicators of progress on these arenas, tested periodically through surveys given to the recipients of this program, include Household Dietary Diversity Scores (HDDS), Household Hunger Scores (HHS) crop yield, knowledge on malnutrition, weight-for-age and mid-upper arm circumference.

We were also fortunate enough to have been able to invite Ellen Halle '13 to present her research to GlobeMed. Halle spent her semester abroad in Costa Rica to work on issues related to nutritional status and food security of the migrant indigenous group, the Ngobe, who work on coffee farms in Costa Rica. One important focus in Halle's research was nutritional transitions that are currently underway among the Ngobe groups. For example, as they are no longer doing sustenance farming, the Ngobe have become dependent on cheap foods, such as rice and junk food, for part of their diet. Halle has been working with local health officials to raise awareness in national conferences concerning the circumstances of the Ngobe, and has collected resources that may hopefully aid the transition of the Ngobe to more sustainable and healthy nutritional diets.

We hope that through these initiatives GlobeMed will become further involved in addressing today's global health issues in countries such as Costa Rica, and eventually help others become aware of the growing problems in nutrition and poverty that we will face in the near future.

Slate editor talks about media's future

By Michelle Smoler

Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

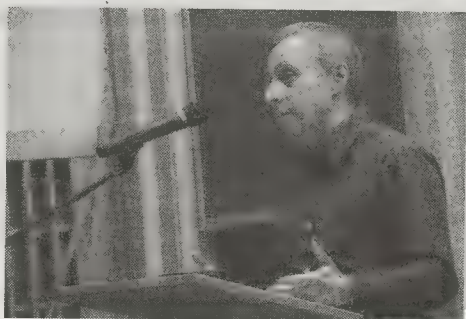
In his lecture entitled "Government Without Newspapers" Jacob Weisberg, editor-in-chief at large of Slate Group — a series of online publications — references this quote, written in a letter by Thomas Jefferson, in an attempt to emphasize the political importance of newspapers and the implications inherent in the current degradation of the newspaper industry.

Understood as a basic freedom in democracy, newspapers have historically been seen as the watchdog of government. Were government not subject to the criticisms of its people, those in charge would become wolves, devouring the sheep. Weisberg emphasized the absence of newspapers during Europe's exploitation of colonized America. Moving forward to modern day, he identified countries such as China and Russia for their lack of independent print. The question Weisberg sought to answer, however, is — does the shrinking of the newspaper industry endanger the potential for journalism to serve its function as a political regulator? What he concluded is that despite the passing of the era of newsprint as a medium, journalism, the agency for the spreading of news, is at its peak.

"There is a really interesting paradox never been a worse time to be a newspaper, but there has never been a better time to be a journalist," he said.

In terms of reaching wide audiences, digital media allow writers to reach a global audience. Whereas in the past, Weisberg explained, a journalist was confined by the readership of its print source, "now if you started a blog and it caught on — reaching everyone in the world simultaneously, instantaneously — for journalists who want to be read you can't imagine the value of that."

This notion brings to light the transitioning definition of journalism. No longer do journalists start their career at a small newspaper and continue on through their career until they reach a national paper. These op-



Jacob Weisberg, editor-in-chief of Slate Group, talks to a full room on Monday.

portunities have been closed off. However, Weisberg stated that this transition away from journalism as a profession has made way for new opportunities.

"You don't need credentials the way you used to and can define job of journalism the way you want to. The barriers to entry in the profession have come down."

In a more practical sense, Weisberg expressed the dangers of drawing a line to define the role of journalists. Typically this is done through special access and rights, shield laws that protect journalism.

"I don't think there should be a super first amendment for journalists ... or anyone. The problem is if you do define journalism as having requirements or rules it puts the government in the position of deciding who is and isn't a journalist."

Weisberg stated that consumers have the ability to pick and choose and therefore it is incumbent upon them to act as their own gatekeepers.

Along with the benefits of free access to news, Weisberg expressed the advantages of digital news in providing personalization for its consumers. He sees it developing in the form of social media.

"News is hard to personalize because what you're interested in is what hasn't happened yet. ... It is starting to happen in social media. Friends and people you 'follow' are such a good proxy for your interests."

Weisberg cited Twitter as being the most revolutionary social medium in terms of personalized news.

"If you follow people on Twitter you create a mirror of relevance for your own interests ...

the more important something is to you the more likely you are to find out about it first."

While Weisberg represents himself as a proponent of digital news, having spent most of his life involved in developing the medium, he acknowledges that the transition between print and digital news will leave some gaps.

While some have sought to answer this question by supporting government sponsorship of newspapers — what Weisberg describes as "an idea that horrifies many journalists" — or sponsorship from other organizations in an effort to transition into nonprofit news, Weisberg advised a hybrid business structure where income is provided by several sources.

"Drawing support from a number of different sources ... can be healthy ... because you are not so dependent on anyone," said Weisberg.

Weisberg cited National Public Radio (NPR) as a thriving news source that receives this sort of hybrid sponsorship. While he noted the structure of this kind of system can make the business nearly unmanageable — NPR has acted without anyone in charge for some years now — he emphasized the journalistic and editorial well-being of the business.

While Weisberg's conclusions regarding the future of newspapers were not hopeful, his enthusiasm for the potential of both journalism and news consumption was undeniable. For would-be journalists in the traditional sense that filled the audience, this affirmation of the death of newsprint was somewhat disheartening. However, others were intrigued by the changed role of journalism and a craft and found Weisberg's outlook on journalism as a craft and its social function to be encouraging.

"As someone who is unfamiliar with the craft of professional journalism but loves to procrastinate by browsing The New York Times online, I thought the talk with Jacob Weisberg was quite informative," wrote Ricky Chen '13 in an email. "I especially liked what he said to aspiring journalists in the room: start a blog. I agree with him that the craft is becoming more democratized, and that with daily practice, a blogger can perfect his or her writing and reach a greater audience."



Artists revisit environmentalism in new museum exhibit, focusing on African work



By Jamie Lee

Open until April 22, the exhibition "Environment and Object: Recent African Art" at the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts embodies the College's environmentally conscientious initiative with its biomass gasification plant and its renowned environmental studies program.

The exhibition, curated by Lisa Aronson, an associate professor of art history at Skidmore College, and John Weber, Dayton Director of the Tang, features art that ranges from 3D pieces to prints. Some works embrace the idea of recycling, especially the 3D pieces composed entirely of plastic bags. However, the photographs are what really highlight the urgency of the environmental call for action.

One of the featured works, George Osodi's *Oil Spill Near Farm Land Ogoni*, like the tripartite piece by Georgia Papageorge, *Genesis, Crucifixion, Aftermath*, contains a divisive motif. With a man dividing the backdrop into two, the blackened, destroyed earth against the stretch of vegetation, Osodi's print is symbolic of the cur-

rent environmental atmosphere. The linear figure of the man represents the current generations, especially us, who are truly the only "resistance" against the rapid deterioration of the environment, but it is also ironic that we ourselves are the cause of this destruction, as shown by Osodi's figure holding the machete, a tool often used to cut down stalks and other foliage. The anxiety of the artist is clear as the black columns of smoke dwarf the green plants, an imbalance in the composition reminiscent of the painting *Expulsion from the Garden of Eden* by the 19th century American landscape artist Thomas Cole.

Both Cole's and Odosi's works highlight the contrast between the desolate earth and the green, "untouched" land with palm trees present in both artworks. For Cole, the inclusion of the palm trees in the composition of the *Expulsion* alludes to Psalm 92:12, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree," and his painting as a whole addresses the rapid and expansive industrialization of contemporary New England and the consequent devastation of nature.

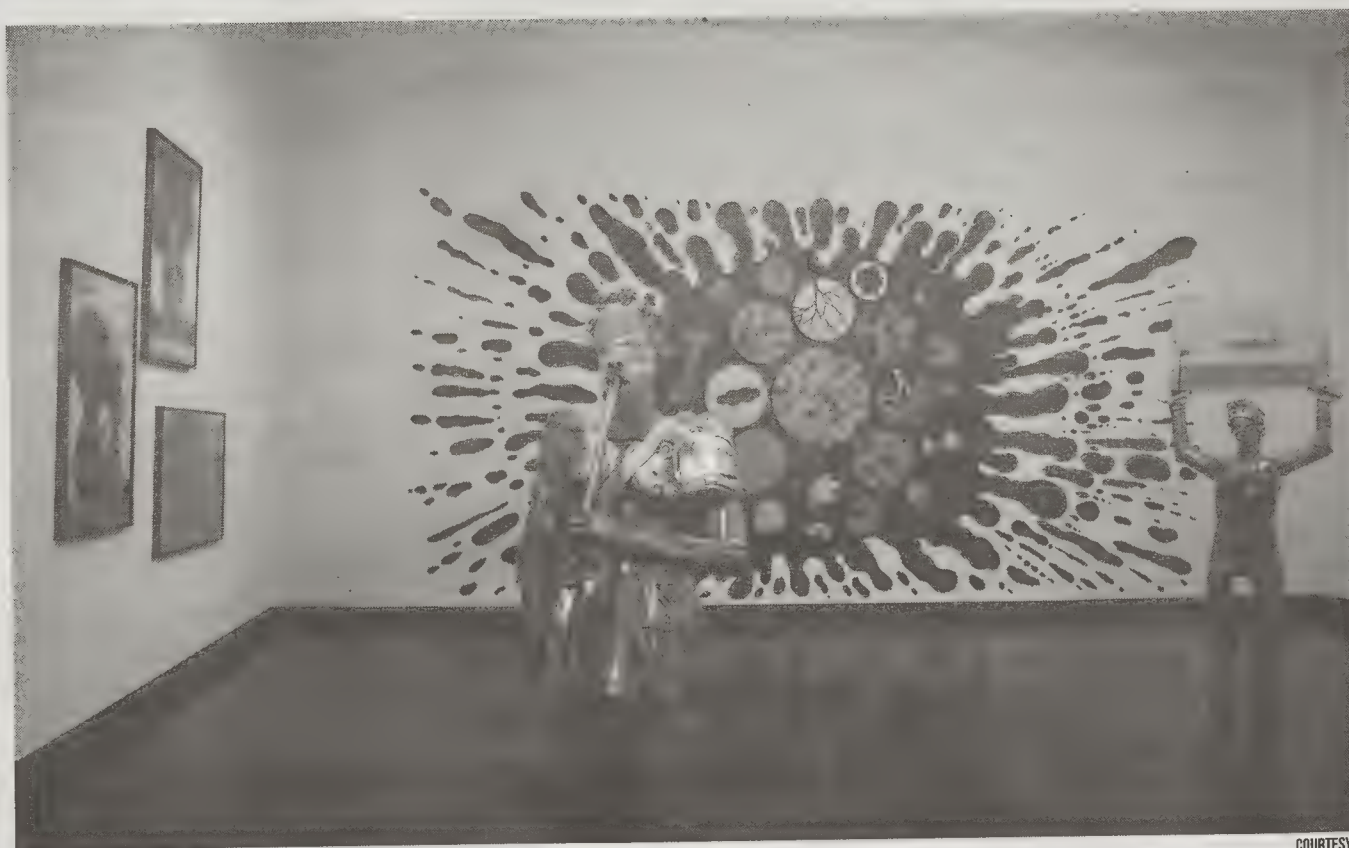
In his "Essay on American Scenery," Cole reprimands

an America that developed at the cost of its landscape and reasons: "We are still in Eden; the wall that shuts us out of the garden is our own ignorance and folly."

Although it is doubtful that Odosi is making the same references as Cole with his photography, the same message and the same exigency are conveyed.

Barthélémy Toguo's featured works, on the other hand, continue this pointed narrative but, rather than focusing on nature itself, commentate on the interconnectedness between the environment, politics and economics. His *Afrika Oil*, another print, has multiple facets, but as a visual art, it is rather simplistic. It highlights our currently unavoidable dependence on oil as well as the resulting environmental damage and political contentions.

These works are only a few of what the new exhibition at the Museum of Art offers to students and Middlebury residents, and it is thanks to the Christian A. Johnson Memorial Fund and the Friends of the Art Museum that "Environment and Object" is able to be exhibited at the College.



COURTESY

An assortment of the works presented in Middlebury College Museum of Art's recently opened exhibit, "Environment and Object: Recent African Art."

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Of Gods and Men

Under threat by fundamentalist terrorists, a group of monks stationed with an impoverished Algerian community must decide whether to leave or stay. In French with English subtitles. Sponsored by the French Department. Free.

2/25, 3 AND 8 P.M., DANA AUDITORIUM

Dynamics of Roman Portraiture

Pieter Broucke, director of the arts, professor of history of art and architecture and associate curator of ancient art, discusses the museum's 2010 acquisition of a portrait of the late Roman empress Tranquillina. Sponsored by the Museum of Art. Free.

3/1, 4:30 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ROOM 125

Screening of "Little House in the Big House"

"Little House in the Big House" is a documentary produced by Artist in Residence Tiffany Rhynard and her sister, Kim Brittenham, with their production company Sisters Unite. It tells the story of a Vermont women's prison where, over a period of a year, inmates build a modular home from start to finish. Free.

3/1, 7 P.M., AXINN CENTER, ROOM 232

SPOTLIGHT ON: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE VIYÉ DIBA

By Grady Trela

Last week, Senegalese artist Viyé Diba was in residence to set up his installation *Nous sommes nombreux, et nos problèmes avec* (*We are Numerous and So Are Our Problems*). It is part of the larger "Environment and Object: Recent African Art" exhibit at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, which runs from Jan. 27 to April 22. Whereas traditional African art has long been enjoyed in the West as a curiosity, the contemporary African art on display is largely a reaction to environmental issues on the continent, lending it a different kind of appeal. Many of the works critique the unbalanced economic system that has exploited African resources and contributed to social, political and environmental disarray. The artists construct these works, fittingly, from junk and found objects, or "things the West [threw] at us."

After finishing his training at the National Institute of Art in Senegal in the early 1970s, Diba taught art in high school before beginning his professional career in 1985. He later studied at the University of Nice, France, receiving his PhD in urban geography. Currently, Diba is a professor at the National School of Arts in Dakar, Senegal.

From the beginning, his interest in art stemmed in part from a similarly deep interest in the environment.

"I have always been interested in the relationship between people and the space they inhabit," he said. "The history of the environment is related closely to the attitude people have in that space."

Many of Diba's pieces are crosses between paintings and sculptures, and they stretch our understanding of how each medium should occupy space. In recent years, his work has become more political, and he has also focused more of his time on installations. In many ways, this is a natural progression in Diba's exploration of space and environment. In *Nous sommes nombreux, et nos problèmes avec*, for example, one is thrust directly into the downtown streets of

Dakar. By creating a metaphorical recreation of the streets of Dakar, Diba puts the viewer inside the environment so that there is a direct physical interaction with the space. The photographs on the wall of the installation that each show "one different problem in Dakar" are visual aids that help the viewer imagine the world of the Dakar streets. On the floor of the installation are small plastic bags filled with paper cut-outs of people. These bags are similar to the ones in which peanuts are sold in Dakar and

show how plastic, an item that has only recently come into African culture, has cluttered the crowded streets and surrounded the Senegalese's space just as globalization has surrounded the African continent.

Diba considers himself an artist before an activist, and his conversation highlighted this at certain points. When asked what were the advantages of conveying his message through art as opposed to in writing — as a journalist might — he pointed out that he has not

thought about this before.

"For some people it is easy to access things visually, and for others it is easier to read things ... I'm just doing what I want, really, which is art."

Diba offered advice for aspiring artists: "To be an artist is to believe in yourself. You don't train to be an artist. It is your own choice. My first question to my students is why they came to study art. They said they came to become artists. I tell them they made a mistake. My role is just to help you discover yourself."



Diba's installation, *Nous sommes nombreux, et nos problèmes avec* (*We are Numerous and So Are Our Problems*), as it appears in the Middlebury College Museum of Art's recently opened exhibit, "Environment and Object: Recent African Art."

ONE LIFE LEFT

BY SANTIAGO AZPURUA-BORRAS

Nintendo has always been the undisputed king of handheld gaming. Ever since the Game Boy, they have dominated that market. After the release of the Nintendo DS, Nintendo's dual screen handheld that popularized the use of touch screen technology within gaming, Sony threw its digital hat into the ring with the original PSP. It was sleek and it was shiny, but it was riddled with problems such as a terrible battery life, dead pixels, one analog nub and a now dead media format (the UMD, or Universal Media Disk). Not to mention the incredibly racist advertising campaign that involved two cartoon squirrels.

As the years went by the PSP held its own with its newfound ability to store games onto its memory card and its solid library of titles such as *God of War*, *Kingdom Hearts*, *Final Fantasy* and *Persona*, among others. However, with the dawn of the Nintendo 3DS, Sony has once again gone handheld-to-handheld with the PlayStation Vita (PSV) which releases stateside on Feb. 22.

The first thing that one notices about the PSV is how big it is. Portable, it is not, but it is surprisingly light. On the surface you'll find a brightly backlit LCD touch screen roughly the size of an iPhone. The PSV features the d-pad and the four face buttons that PlayStation fans are already accustomed to. The biggest change is the presence of two analog sticks —

and they are actually analog sticks this time around. Everything feels responsive, physically sturdy and right where it should be. At first I thought the face buttons may have been too small, but as I began to actually play it, I realized that even with my big thumbs, I was hitting exactly the buttons I wanted, no more, no less.

The PSV home screen will feel immediately familiar to anyone who has used an Apple device with a touchscreen. It's just as responsive and navigating various pages of the main menu involve a swift swipe from the user. Various pre-loaded game demos and videos littered the screen in a somewhat unorganized fashion, but it felt natural to just push the button for the app I wanted to load.

During my time with the PSV I was able to play a variety of its upcoming titles. *Little Deviants*, a game about adorable little creatures that fight robots, is used primarily to showcase the PSV's ability. I only played this game to try out the trackpad located on the back of the PSV. While it is intriguing that Sony is attempting to implement something that would use otherwise idle fingers, it feels really awkward. I'm not the biggest fan of the trackpad, but it is completely possible that developers down the line can find more creative ways to implement its use. As far as I can see, the most it will be able to do is supplement a gaming experience and not make it its focus.

I then tried out the latest *Wipeout*, Sony's signature future-racing space game. *Wipeout* truly showed what the PSV is capable of. It featured clean, crisp visuals with no lag whatsoever even during the fastest of races with multiple vehi-

cles on the screen. When I first booted the game, the load time was long enough for me to acknowledge it, but no load screens were ever found again during my time with the game, even in between races. This was something I found in common with most of the PSV demos, something that I am completely ok with, especially if you consider the fact the PSV will still have the PSP's sleep mode where one can turn off the device, only to continue exactly where they left off in a later moment in time.

Wanting to play something a little more to my taste, I loaded up the PSV *Uncharted* game. Fully voiced and fully rendered, no detail was sacrificed in this tiny package. Frankly, it felt I was playing a PS3 game, except for the fact it was lying in the palms of my hands. While the demo was only a short chapter of the portable adventure, the game had clever uses for the touchscreen such as quick time events. This is definitely a title I have my eye on.

Finally, much to my delight, I saw that there was a demo of *Gravity Rush*, the game that piqued my interest in the PSV when I first read about it. A beautiful third-person Japanese action game, it was my first time with a game that used both the PSV's analog sticks. If you've played any console game that required you to control your character with the left stick and the camera with the right, you will feel right at home. This is a big deal because it means that proper third person and first person games will finally be possible on this handheld. No more static cameras or awkward control schemes. Rejoice!

The visuals of *Gravity Rush* threw me back to the *Persona* games. You play as a girl who obtains the ability to manipulate gravity. She can turn her own personal gravity in every direction that she wants, and impressively this is all done with a simple three-button system. It's incredibly fluid and keeps the action flowing. You are then tasked to use this ability in creative and specific ways to combat the various enemies you encounter as well as to explore the environment. Regrettably, *Gravity Rush* will not be a PSV launch title, which honestly, had the potential to be a killer app.

When the PSV releases it will come in two models. The Wi-Fi-only model will cost you \$250, while its 3G counterpart will cost \$300 plus the data plan. Why anyone would ever buy the 3G models, I do not understand, but if you want to make what is already a luxury item more expensive, be my guest. While I will be buying one of these, it will not be at launch. Sony doesn't exactly have the best track record with hardware launches. The original PSP had all those problems I listed earlier and the PS3 was \$600 with no interesting titles at launch and the year that followed. The PSV also feels very fragile, but obviously I wasn't going to test this by dropping it or anything of the sort. The PSV left me quite impressed, and is my favorite of the next-generation handhelds, but I'm going to give it some time to simmer just to allow more games to be released as well as the possibility of a price drop. The PSV has potential — it just needs some time, but it's well on its way.

BOOKING IT

BY HALLIE WOODS

My first exposure to John Green's *Looking for Alaska* was in my children's literature course last semester. We'd been discussing censorship and the challenging of various books, and my professor brought up a video in which Green addressed his views on the banning of his book. For some context on this video, Green and his brother stopped speaking for a year except by video, which they posted on YouTube to each other every day. I was immediately struck by the intelligence and quick wit of this author, who clearly believed in what he had written and didn't feel the need to censor anything in his novel, because those elements were helping him get to the greater truth.

To quote Green paraphrasing William Faulkner, "I am not interested in

the facts, only the truth." That is exactly what *Looking for Alaska* does. It finds the truth despite the facts, and speaks with the voice of an adolescent splendidly.

The novel is split into two parts, before and after, which makes writing any sort of review for it rather difficult, since I cannot talk at all about the after. I will just have to leave that in as a hook to you, and assure you that this is a first-class novel worthy of your time.

Yes, it was written for high schoolers. But honestly, at this point, who cares? I'm just as interested in reading about awkward first sexual encounters and the idiosyncrasies of teachers now as when I was sixteen.

Green has mastered the high school voice, such that I immediately loved the main character, Miles "Pudge" Halter, and would have probably been his friend. In fact, as I was reading I really wished that I was in Pudge's friend cir-

cle. He is also desperately in love with Alaska Young, the typical enigmatic and troubled teen girl who is heartbreakingly beautiful and never going to be with him. It is Green's talent to write voice so well that each character is distinct, but believable, that makes the novel successful.

I'm a sucker for language in general, and when not working in his characters' voices, Green displays his skill of creating a scene or a feeling that is beautiful without showing off. This is not the prose of James Joyce, and yet there is a beauty in simplicity, in explaining the details of a mundane dorm room or particularly dull professor that still turns into polished and wonderfully readable writing. For me it also helped that the Alabama boarding school where the novel is set is based quite heavily upon the boarding school one of my best friends attended, and being able to link her stories into the background knowledge that Green works off of was a fun

personal endeavor for me.

So I've babbled for a while, and you are sitting there still wondering why on earth you should read this book. It is not enough that I tell you to? No, in all seriousness, this is a novel that covers the full scope of human emotion. I laughed out loud, I cried, I felt awkward for some characters and thrilled for others.

There is everything on these pages, and Green has given the story to his reader in a way that is easy without being patronizing. He wants the reader to understand grief and love and humor and all that is essentially high school, while also still acknowledging that a sixteen year old can have elevated thoughts, even existential questions about life. It is a successful novel that is most certainly on my re-reading list, and a novel I feel may just be worthy of the title "*The Catcher in the Rye* for this generation."

There now, you have to read it, just to see if I'm right. Don't you love the pull of a grandiose statement?

LOOKING FOR ALASKA

John Green

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Men's hockey splits last games of regular season

CONTINUED FROM 24

the period scoreless on both sides.

The second period proved more rewarding for the Panthers as they got on the board just three minutes into the period. Pollock scored from the right off of a power play in his fourth goal of the season.

Throughout the rest of the period, the Panthers held the advantage with a 17-4 shooting advantage over the Lord Jeffs. Attempts from Chris Brown '13 and Freyre were thwarted by LaRose, forcing the Panthers to leave the second period with a 1-0 advantage.

The third period proved to be the Panther's downfall as they lost the shot advantage for the first time in the game and allowed Amherst to score two goals and leave Kenyon Arena with a win. In just the first ten minutes of play the Lord Jeffs held a 9-0 shots advantage over Middlebury. In their 10th shot, the Lord

Jeffs put themselves on the scoreboard tying the game at 1-1. Amherst gained their first lead of the game 14:33 into the third period with a short-handed shot from Andrew Kurlandski.

The Lord Jeffs held a 13-3 shot advantage over the Panthers in the third period while the Panthers held a 31-21 total shot advantage for the game. Late goals from the top seeded Lord Jeffs proved to be the Panther's downfall in their attempt to kick them off of spot in the rankings.

While Amherst will host No. 8 seed Hamilton, Middlebury will host Wesleyan in the quarterfinal game on Saturday. While the Panthers lost 5-4 to the Cardinals early in the season, more recently they beat the Cardinals 3-2 on their home rink.

The team ended last season in the quarterfinal game against Colby at home and will look to avoid that fate this year. The team beat out the Mules twice this season, 3-1 and 3-2, avenging for last years' early finish.



ANDREW POORYGULA

Tom Freyre '14 looks to pass while under pressure from Hamilton defenders. The Panthers avenged their earlier 3-0 loss, beating the Continentals 2-1.

EDITORS' PICKS



OWEN TEACH (8-6, .571)



DAMON HATHEWAY (39-30, .565)



DILLON HUPP (97-84, .536)



ALEX EDEL (53-64, .453)



KATIE SIEGNER (70-85, .452)

Will the men's basketball team's margin of victory be greater or less than five?

GREATER
I never hesitate to take the over with this team.

GREATER
The men's basketball team is peaking at exactly the right time.

GREATER
An answer of greater for a team that's greater than their opposition.

GREATER
Their last game gave the team and all their fans confidence moving forward.

GREATER
Go big or go home.

Who will score more goals in the NESCAC quarterfinals, men's or women's hockey?

WOMEN'S
I foresee this team rebounding in a big way.

WOMEN'S
The girls put up points like Alex gets sports editors picks wrong.

WOMEN'S
Their body of work over the season is far superior to that of the men's.

WOMEN'S
In general they are just a much higher scoring team than the men.

WOMEN'S
Any team that Lauren Greer's on has my vote.

Will the Middlebury ski teams place in the top three at the Middlebury Carnival?

YES
The key in this one will be if there is any snow.

YES
This is their tournament.

YES
But how will we defend home snow if there's no snow?

YES
Last week they regained their top three place and will stick to it.

YES
Third is their typical finish these days; I don't see them sliding into fourth at their only home carnival.

Who will win the NBA dunk contest—Williams, Budinger, George or Shupert?

IMAN SHUPERT
With Jeremy Lin on his side, he can't lose, right?

CHASE BUDINGER
The kid can jump out of the gym. AND he went to a Pac-12 school.

DERICK WILLIAMS
Too athletic and too unpredictable. He's bound to put on a show.

CHASE BUDINGER
Mostly cause Damon picked him.

IMAN SHUPERT
Win goes to he with the best name.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S HOCKEY vs. Amherst

2-1^L

Third-ranked Amherst stole the win from the Panthers with two third-period goals in Sunday's game.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD New England

Eighth

The team continued their record-breaking ways with new school records set in the mile and the 3,000.

MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Williams

73-61^W

After a slow start, the Panthers pulled away from Williams with high-percentage free throw shooting.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. Plattsburgh

4-4^T

With 48 seconds remaining, Sarah Ugalde '14 tied the game for the Panthers on a 2-v-1 play.

MEN'S SQUASH vs. Navy

5-4^L

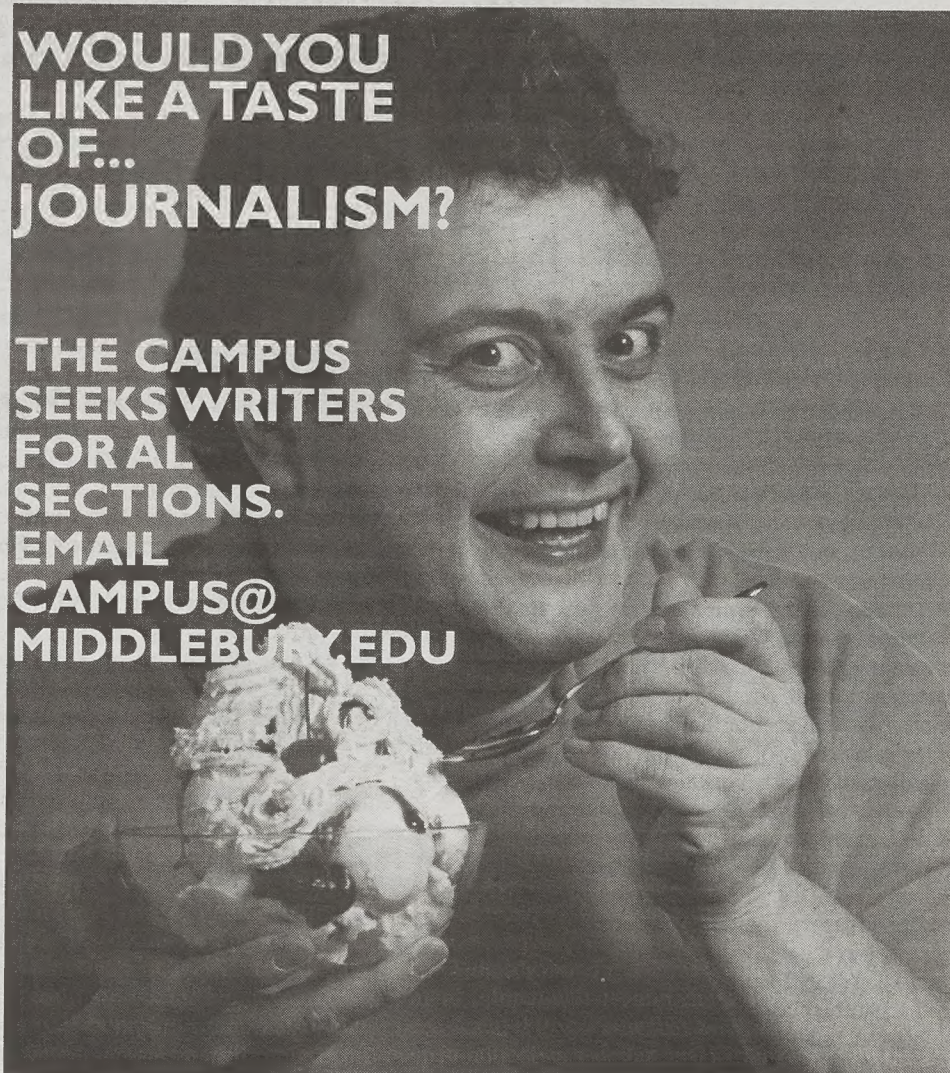
The Panthers dropped a hard-fought match, ending Nationals and the season ranked 14th in the nation.

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Women's hockey catches Cardinals in tie

By Mike Oster

The Middlebury women's hockey team continued their season with a mid-week matchup against the second-ranked Norwich Cadets last Tuesday. The game proved tough for the Panthers, as they suffered their first loss after a six week winning streak. Middlebury was able to net 3 goals, but the Norwich offense proved superior and the Cadets won 5-3.

After a scoreless first period, the visitors took a 2-0 lead at the outset of the second period with goals from Maggie Woodward '13 and Emily Fluke '14. Norwich countered, however with five unanswered goals over the next 32 minutes to take a three-goal lead. The Panthers drew a goal back with less than 10 seconds remaining in the game from Madeline Joyce '14, her fifth of the season.

The fourth-ranked Middlebury women then hosted their final game of the regular season, facing the Plattsburgh Cardinals on Sunday. This is the second time this season these two teams faced off. The previous matchup was at the Panther/Cardinal Classic in November where the Panther's won, 4-1.

Middlebury jumped out to a quick start, taking the lead 1-0 just 2:41 into the first period on a power play. Hannah Bielawski '15 passed the puck to Jennifer Krakower '14 who shot it into the back of the net for her fourth goal of the season. Plattsburgh was able to tie up the

game before the period ended, with a shot from Jenny Kristner sneaking past Middlebury goaltender Annabelle Jones '14.

Middlebury followed a similar pattern in the second frame, blazing to an early goal just 19 seconds in. Grace Waters '12 earned her seventh of the season off an assist from Madison Styrbicki '13. It took the Cardinals until just over halfway into the period to answer, which they did with two goals in 55 seconds. The first came from Kylie Klassen to tie the game 2-2. Ashton Hogan then netted the puck to give Plattsburgh the lead 3-2 going into the final frame.

Middlebury jumped into action early again in the third period, with Katie Sullivan '15 scoring after Lauren Greer '13 was denied by Cardinal goaltender Sydney Aveson. Neither team managed to pull ahead in the period until Cardinals player Teal Grove crossed the puck to Shannon Stewart, who scored to take the lead 4-3 with just over two minutes left.

Questing for a goal as the seconds ticked down toward the end of the game, Middlebury stepped up the intensity and pulled Jones to add a skater. The Panthers were able to pull off the tie, with Sara Ugalde '14 scoring her team-leading 13th goal of the season to knot the game at 4-4.

Despite a power-play advantage for Plattsburgh at the beginning of additional time, neither team was able to find a



ANDREW POORYGULA

Lauren Greer '13 races forward with the puck as a Cardinal defender reaches for a steal. The game ended in a 4-4 tie in the team's last regular season game.

game-winning goal. The final result was a tie, 4-4, sending Middlebury to an 18-3-3 regular season record while Plattsburgh wound up 17-5-3.

This weekend, the Panthers will head into the NESCAC tournament. The team's in-season performance secured them the top seed in the playoff and

home ice advantage for the duration of the tournament, which begins this Saturday with the quarterfinals. They will face off against the Colby Mules at 1:00 pm at Kenyon Arena. The team looks to defend the NESCAC title it earned last year after triumphing over Amherst, this year's second-seeded team in the tournament.

Men's squash finishes 14th nationally

By Katie Siegner

No game or season can be taken for granted, or simplified to the stats on paper. Although the men's squash team finished the 2011-2012 season with the same national ranking as last year (14), it seems clear that each year under the Illig regime the team takes big strides forward.

"It was a long season filled with high points as well as disappointment," said men's co-captain Addi DiSesa '12. "Overall, I'd say we have made something of this program over the last few years. When Val [Quan '12] and I arrived in 2008, the team was ranked 24th in the country. Today we are 14th. That kind of a jump is impressive by any standard, and I am proud to have played a role these last few years."

This year, the team's record improved to 16-9 from 14-11 the year before, and the men's trip to Nationals to compete in the Hoehn Cup (B Division) was marked by ex-

citing games all around.

Men's squash team Nationals were held the weekend before the women's, which is coming up this Friday and Saturday at Harvard, and they immediately faced a rematch of their close loss to St. Lawrence from the weekend before. This time, the match was even closer, as the men's fate came down to the last points of the last game.

Middlebury had held a tenuous lead at certain points throughout the match, however, the score eventually became knotted at four games apiece, with Spencer Hurst '13 playing the final match. Hurst led for most of the games, all closely contested, but was unable to pull out a win in the fifth game and fell to his opponent by the slim margin of 11-9. With the first-round loss, Middlebury entered the consolation bracket for its final two matches.

The Panthers rebounded from this disappointment well, taking Bates 6-3 in their second game the following day. This com-

pleted a three-match sweep of the Bobcats in all three of their meetings this season, and Middlebury ended with a 9-2 record against other NESCAC opponents, with the only two losses coming to Williams.

In their final match of the season, Middlebury fell to Navy on Sunday, again by the close score of 5-4. However, the day was not without its uplifting notes, such as DiSesa's fifth-game victory over his opponent in the last match of his career. The Panthers battled through every game of the weekend; their effort, skill, and determination are promising signs for the years to come, in which Middlebury will look to continue climbing the rankings of collegiate squash.

"Going forward, I hope the team keeps squash in perspective," said DiSesa. "We play a game. Wins and losses remain important, but enjoying the day-to-day practices and challenges that arise on any team lay bare the true benefits of being a scholar-athlete."

BY THE NUMB3RS

2

Number of times men's basketball has beaten Williams this season. Take that Ephs.

3

Number of events won by Margo Cramer '12 at last weekend's track meet. The women's tri-captain set a school record in the mile.

48

Number of seconds remaining when women's hockey leading scorer Sarah Ugalde '14 scored the game-tying goal against Plattsburgh.

1

Goal margin in men's hockey's last three games. Two of those were Panther victories, the other was a loss to Amherst.

2

Number of minor league players the Pittsburgh Pirates traded to the Yankees for erratic pitcher AJ Burnett.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING CHANGE TEAM
Alex's Assertions

1+1

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The team is back on track for a great post-season.

2-1

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Tying Plattsburgh breaks their winning streak.

3

MEN'S HOCKEY

The team shows promise even if falling short Sunday.

4+3

SKIING

The team was back in their usual third place.

5

TRACK AND FIELD

Fourteen school records set just this indoor season!

6

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The women had some amazing races!

7-1

MEN'S SQUASH

The team lost in a very close 5-4 match to Navy.

8

WINTER '11-'12

Carnival without snow! Step up your game winter.

Women's swimming and diving finishes fourth at NESCAC meet, sets record

By Kevin Yochim

Last weekend, Feb. 18-19, the Middlebury women's swimming and diving team headed to Wesleyan to compete in the 2012 NESCAC Championships. The Panthers had an extremely strong performance, finishing in fourth place with 1,142.5 points. Williams (1,826), Amherst (1,460.5), Tufts (1,261.5) and Bates (867) rounded out the top five.

The relay teams were particularly strong over the weekend, with all five teams earning NCAA B-Cut times, giving them the opportunity to compete at the NCAA Championships next month. The 200-yard medley relay team of Andie Tibbetts '14, Jamie Hillas '15, Maddy Berkman '15 and Ann Carpenter '15 were NESCAC champions with a time of 1:45.57, and set both meet and pool records with their effort. Tibbetts's leadoff backstroke leg of 26.33 seconds reset the school record that she had broken the day before in the individual event. The 400-yard medley relay team of Tibbetts, Hillas, Berkman and Nora Daly '13 finished second and set a school record with a time of 3:50.99.

On the individual side, Tibbetts and Hil-

las led the way for the Panthers. Hillas was NESCAC champion and set a Middlebury record in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 29.79 seconds. She would then repeat those results in the 100-yard event with a time of 1:05.15, earning an NCAA B-Cut. Tibbetts finished second in the 50-, 100- and 200-yard backstroke events with times of 26.44, 55.59 and 2:02.83, respectively. She broke the school record in all three races and earned the Panthers' lone NCAA A-Cut in the 100-yard event.

Also earning B-Cuts were Katherine Loftus '12 in the 500-, 200- and 1650-yard freestyle and Alex Edel '14 and Jen Friedlander '13 in the 400-yard individual medley.

Middlebury also had success in the diving events. Colleen Harper '14 finished sixth on Friday in the one-meter event with a score of 389.83, followed by Hannah King '13 in 10th with 367.35 points. On Sunday, Harper and King finished seventh and eighth in the 3m event with scores of 378.10 and 376.55, respectively.

The Panthers finished each day in fourth place, though they were always within fight-

ing distance of third-place Tufts. It was an extremely strong showing from Middlebury, which returned to the top flight of the NESCAC standings after a disappointing end to last year's season.

"The girls were great," said coach Bob Rueppel. "They were very focused and they bought into what we were doing really, really well. I'm thrilled, and they deserved it."

The women will now have about a month to train and taper for the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis that begin on March 21. They will most likely bring eight swimmers to the event.

"We're happy to make it to Nationals, but that's not the end-all," said Rueppel. "We're going there to perform very well, and I think with the correct mindset we're going to be great."

"NESCACs were amazing, but Nationals will be even better," said Hillas. "I'm definitely looking forward to all of our relays. We all know that we can go faster."

The men's team will travel to Williams on Friday for the NESCAC Championships, where the team figures to compete for a high position on the scoreboard.

Skiing performs well at Williams Carnival

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The weekend started off with slalom races for the Alpine skiers. In the men's race, UVM began the weekend in impressive fashion by sweeping the podium; the Catamounts were led by Sean Higgins who took the individual win. Roberts continued his strong season by taking sixth place to lead the Panthers.

Captain Bryan Shpall '13 was the next Middlebury finisher in 13th, while Liam Mulhern '14 and Bailey were right behind in 15th and 16th places, respectively. With three finishers in the top-15, the male Panthers grabbed third place in an incredibly close race — there were six points separating the second and fourth place teams.

In the women's slalom race, the Williams women capitalized on their home course advantage to capture the top two steps of the podium. Captain Christine Schozer '13 continued her consistent season, placing 13th and leading the Panthers. Unfortunately, the rest of the team struggled a bit, with Mary Sackbauer '15 and

Yina Moe-Lange '15 taking 29th and 37th places, respectively. The lady Panthers finished the day in seventh place.

After the first day of racing, Dartmouth was in first, followed closely by Williams and UVM, while Middlebury was in fourth.

The second day of racing began with a 10km classic race for the Nordic skiers. In the men's race, it was Dartmouth who took the top team score, with three skiers in the top-nine. Ben Lustgarten '14 led the Panthers with an impressive fifth place finish, tying his season-best finish from the Dartmouth 20km classic mass-start. Tri-captain Patrick Johnson '12 was right behind Lustgarten in sixth, while fellow tri-captain Chase Marston '12 finished just outside the top-10 in 11th. Because the 10km classic was the only race of the weekend for the Nordic skiers, the scores were doubled; the Panthers earned two third-place finishes for their strong races.

In the women's race, Dartmouth continued their domination of the Nordic races, placing first, second and fifth. Co-captain Sophie McClelland '12 led the Panther

women with a 17th place finish, while Emily Attwood '14 was close behind in 22nd. A pair of first-years, Annie Pokorny '15 and Stella Holt '15, finished back-to-back in 24th and 25th places, respectively. The Panther women finished their only race of the weekend tied with Bates for the fourth-place team score.

Back on the downhill slopes, the Alpine skiers raced a Giant Slalom (GS). The male Panthers demonstrated that they have one of the most talented and deep teams on the Eastern circuit by placing three skiers in the top-seven and capturing the top team score. Besides the top-three finishers, the Panthers also got strong performances from Shpall (ninth) and the only senior on the team, Aaron Robertson '12 (18th).

The Panthers are looking forward to the opportunity to capitalize on some home course advantage this coming weekend in the Middlebury Winter Carnival. The Nordic races have been moved to the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vt. because of poor snow conditions, but the Alpine races will still be happening at the Snow Bowl.

Panthers advance to NESCAC semis

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felt we could score pretty much every time against Williams," said Wolfen. "We felt we could go inside to [Sharry], get [Lynch] a couple touches — no one could really guard him, he's just too strong. We had contributions from everywhere and the only way you score is if you get shots so limiting those turnovers was definitely the focal point of this game."

Joey Kizel '14, meanwhile, rounded out the Panthers in double figures with 14 points, eight of which came from the free throw line.

Seventh-seeded Williams, which shot better than 53 percent from the floor the first time these teams played, mustered just 61 points and shot a horrific four for 29 from three point range. Junior guard Nate Robertson led his team with 19 points on seven for 11 shooting from the field despite missing all six of his three-point opportu-

nities. Michael Mayer and Rooke-Ley both recorded double digit scoring efforts with 14 and 10 points respectively.

Ultimately, however, it was Sharry's improved defense on Williams forward Taylor Epley that made the difference. After Epley torched the Panthers for 26 points the first time these teams met, the Panthers, and Sharry in particular, limited the streaky scorer to just four points on 2-11 shooting from the field.

"I really had to step up my defense," Sharry said. "Last time Epley killed me so I really focused on that this week with the scouting report. For the team as a whole we know that Williams — no matter what their record — is going to be a

JEFF BROWN
HEAD COACH

great team, great test. We wanted to play them tough and we knew we had to play hard the whole game."

The Panthers will travel to Amherst this weekend for the NESCAC semifinals against Wesleyan on Saturday, Feb. 25. Middlebury edged the Cardinals earlier this year on the road 65-62.

"The great surprise is how well we have shot free throws and that was really key down the stretch."



ANDREW POORYGULA

Nolan Thompson '13 contributed nine points along with stellar defense to the Panthers effort against Williams.

Individual performers shine at D3 meet

By Owen Teach

The teams haven't even stepped out-side for a competitive meet this year, and yet the men's and women's track & field teams' seasons could already be considered resounding successes. Just 35 days since the season-opening Gotham Cup in January, the teams thus far have compiled an astonishing 14 new Middlebury records (10 in men's and four in women's.)

Fresh off a strong showing in Boston, both sides ran to encouraging finishes at the New England Division III championships in Massachusetts this past weekend, Feb 18 and 19. The men's side travelled to Springfield College, whereas the women competed at Smith College in Northampton. Bryan Holtzman '14 commented on how the recent run of successful results carried into this past weekend.

"The teams were feeling confident," said Holtzman. "School records and top performances have been a theme for this entire season, not just at Boston, so spirits were high going into DIIs."

While neither side finished first in the standings, the teams were consistently in the mix for the top spot. The men took eighth out of twenty-four teams at Springfield while the women ended the day in fifth out of twenty-two. Furthermore, the slew of school records kept coming, as five additional Panther bests will now be added

to the books.

On the men's side Michael "Shoeless" Schmidt '12 won the 3000m in a school record time of 8:25.32. Jack Davies '13 then set the school record in the mile in 4:16.09, placing fourth, while Patrick Hebble '13 placed fifth at 4:16.50, running from the slow heat. Peter Hetzler '14 placed third in the 400m at 50.26, which marks his fastest time on a flat track this season. According to Holtzman, Schmidt's record-setting race was quite a spectacle.

"[Schmidt] spent the first half of the race in the pack roughly 20m behind the leader," recalled Holtzman. "He then split from the pack in the second half of the race, worked his way up to the leader, and walked away from him over the final lap of the race." However, when asked about the team's finish, Holtzman points out that eighth is not where the team wants to be.

"The team had a bit of an off-day as a whole, so there was disappointment there. On the other hand, it was the highest the team has placed ever at this event," he said. "We are more built for the outdoor season than the indoor season and are confident that come the NESCAC meet, we will perform well and place highly." Last year the team finished ninth behind Williams,

Bates, Bowdoin, Tufts, Amherst and Wesleyan in this same meet, but made the jump to third in the NESCAC finals in April.

For the women, Margo Cramer '12 ran wild as she took home three wins at Smith, including a new school-record 4:51.93 in the mile. The distance medley relay team of Cramer, Sarah O'Brien '13, Sarah Guth '15 and Emily Singer '14 continued its success as well, while Juliet Ryan-Davis '13 was a winner in the 1,000 with a time of 2:58.23. Also, Kara Walker '13 set a new school-record in the pentathlon with 2,831 points.

"School records and top performances have been a theme for this entire season, so spirits were high going into D3s."

BRYAN HOLTZMAN '14
MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Holtzman, as well of the rest of the team, is excited about the potential of the women's distance medley relay squad.

"Looking forward, the women's distance medley team will be trying to repeat as national champions at the NCAA meet and March with the possibility of some legs doubling back in individual events," said Holtzman.

With the outdoor season rapidly approaching, the Panthers will look to keep this record-setting streak going.

DAMON & DILLON

In honor of President's day (last Monday, Feb. 20), Dillon and Damon decided to democratically debate which POTUS reigned supreme not in the oval office, but in the glorious annals of athletic competition.

Dillon Says: It's hard to pick just one leader of the free world for this award. Dwight Eisenhower played linebacker and running back for Army, and went up against Jim Thorpe in his day. Jimmy Carter ran cross country at Navy, and it's a safe bet that Taft was a beast in the sumo ring. But my pick goes to Leslie King, better known as Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States. Ford goes down in history for his less-than memorable succession of Richard Nixon after the later resigned in scandal in 1974, for being the only president who was never elected in a national election (he was appointed VP by Nixon in 1973), and for Chevy Chase's frequent and hilarious impersonations of him on SNL. His resumé on the gridiron, however, is far more impressive. He was the captain of his high-school football team, and then all-city in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Then, he went on to play for a little known program called the Michigan Wolverines, where he won national championships in 1932 and '33 and was an All-American in 1934. Oh, and he also shot a hole-in-one in 1977. While he was president. Top that, basketball Barry.

Damon Says: Well we certainly know who isn't winning this competition. Congratulations George W. Bush, just another item on a long list of things you didn't do as well as your dad. While Herbert Walker captained both the soccer and baseball teams at Yale and brought the Bulldogs to multiple College World Series, Dubya got none of his father's athleticism. Unless, that is, you count a booming voice that he used to head Andover's cheerleading squad, but failed him so miserably in his quest to conquer the word nuclear. No, I'll take our nation's point guard incumbent, Barack Obama. Though he may not have tackled Jim Thorpe or won a national championship at Michigan, Obama did lead Occidental in scoring during the 1979 season, as a freshman, no less! And then there's the famous elbow incident, which sent our Commander in Chief of the hardwood to the hospital for stitches. So yes, Dillon, "Barry Basketball" — which is a terrific nickname if I may say so — is our most athletically inclined president. He's even promised to reform the BCS, which would probably upstage the siege of Osama Bin Laden as Obama's most popular achievement. So yes, four more years.

Dillon Says: Damon, here's a guy I think we can both agree on — Teddy Roosevelt. A very sickly child, he devoted himself to living the strenuous life, and in the process made himself one of the most badass presidents that ever lived. He boxed at Harvard, played tennis on the White House lawn, went big-game hunting in Africa, explored the Amazon river in South America, and of course, had amazing upper-body strength from always carrying around that big stick of his.

Damon Says: Tremendous call, Dillon. While he was an advocate of speaking softly, our 26th President was incredibly outspoken about reforming the game of football. And understandably so — in 1905 18 people died from football related injuries. 18! Imagine where Roger Goodell would have moved the kick off line to if that had happened under his watch. Instead, Roosevelt invented the forward pass, revolutionizing the game and — it must be said — vastly increasing the number of concussions in the sport. But Teddy Roosevelt undoubtedly saved the game of football, at least for another century when, who knows, maybe Barack Obama will seize the title of greatest President ever by delaying the demise of America's greatest sport for another century.

—Dillon Hupp is a sports editor from Little Rock, Ark. and Damon Hatheway is a sports editor from London, UK.

Men's basketball throws off Ephs in quarters

By Damon Hatheway

The NESCAC's second seed, the fourth-ranked Middlebury Panthers, took their first step toward defending their 2011 NESCAC title with a 73-61 win over rivals Williams last Saturday, Feb. 18. With the win Middlebury improved to 23-2 on the season and will travel to Amherst this weekend for a semifinal matchup against Wesleyan.

Senior co-captain Ryan Sharry '12 was in All-American form, dominating the game on both ends of the floor. The 6'8" forward from Braintree, Mass., finished the game with 22 points, seven rebounds and four blocked shots, scoring 10 consecutive points for the Panthers at one point. Sharry's presence was most noticeable on the defensive end, however, where he anchored a Middlebury defense that held the Ephs to just 35 percent shooting from the floor and swatted 12 shots in total.

"That was our calling card last year," Sharry said of the team's 12 blocked shots. "We haven't had as many blocks this year as last year. But [Jack Roberts '14] is a tremendous shot blocker."

Roberts — the team's sophomore skyscraper — turned in his most impressive performance of the season, rejecting five shots and pulling down six boards in 17 minutes of play off the bench for the Panthers.

"[Roberts] gave us a great boost off the bench, getting five blocks and matching up with Mayer on the defensive end," said head coach Jeff Brown. "We felt we could defend them more effectively than we did the first time. We really struggled with Epley and Mayer in our last matchup, but today we did a much better job defensively and it really helped us, especially in the first half when we were struggling to get our footing on the offensive

end."

With both teams cold from the floor in the early going, the Ephs took a 10-7 lead with 12:52 remaining in the first half. The Williams advantage was short-lived, however, as Sharry and the Panthers used smothering defense on one end of the floor to create offense on the other. Middlebury opened up a 19-10 lead with 5:13 left in the half on a 12-0 run. From that point on the Panthers never trailed.

"For the team as a whole, we know that Williams — no matter what their record — is going to be a great team, great test."

**RYAN SHARRY '12
CO-CAPTAIN**

After the Ephs cut the lead back to five with a three-point bucket from guard James Klemm, junior co-captain Nolan Thompson '13 responded with a dead-eye three point shot of his own after a dizzying display of ball movement from the Panthers in transition worked its way back to Thompson for the shot from the wing.

The Panthers pushed their lead to 11 on two Peter Lynch '13 free throws with three seconds remaining in the half and looked to be headed to the intermission with a double digit lead, but a running, buzzer-beater three point shot from Ephs guard Hayden Rooke-Ley slimmed the Panthers' lead to eight at the half.

Middlebury wasted no time in the second half, as Sharry tipped an offensive rebound off a missed shot to Jake Wolfen '13 who buried a triple to extend the home team's lead back to 11. Sharry then scored the next seven Panther points, putting his team up eight with 12:26 remaining in the game.

Middlebury sealed the deal down the stretch from the free throw line, sinking 18-20 foul shots in the final six minutes of the game while converting 27 of 31 attempts from the charity stripe in the game.

"The great surprise is how

well we have shot free throws and that was really a key down the stretch," Brown said. "We really didn't give Williams a lot of wiggle room to get back [in the game] the last three or four minutes of the contest."

"It's hard for teams to come back when the opposing team is making foul shots like that," Wolfen said, echoing his coach. "We felt that we could get to the basket against their guards and penetrate and get shots for everyone else and we were able to draw some fouls and get them in the bonus and luckily enough we were able to make some foul shots and seal the game."

Wolfen finished the game with 16 points, six rebounds and three assists while knocking down eight of ten free throws. The junior point guard also turned the ball over just one time in 33 minutes of play. As a team the Panthers committed just seven turnovers in the game.

"Before the game Coach Brown [told us] if we limited turnovers and got good shots we

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ANDREW PODRYGULA

Clockwise from right: Joey Kizel '14 attempts a layup; the crowd goes wild at Pepin; Kizel and Albert Nascimento '14 get hyped; and Nolan Thompson '13 leads the Panthers to a home victory.

Skiing takes third at Williams Carnival, wins men's GS event

By Martin Breu

The Panthers bounced back from a fourth-place finish last weekend to take third in the Williams Carnival, the penultimate races of the season. Dartmouth returned to the top of the podium for their second win of the season, while UVM was second. Middlebury had been sitting in fourth-place after another abbreviated first day (the Nordic relay races were cancelled), but was buoyed by some tremendous racing by the men's alpine team to capture third overall.

The standout performance of the weekend belongs to the

men's alpine team, who grabbed their first team victory of the season in the GS race by two points over UVM. Andrew McNealus '13 picked up his first win of the season, while Nick Bailey '14 and Hig Roberts '14 were not far off the pace in fifth and seventh places, respectively.

"The guys put forth some gutsy performances," said Alpine coach Stever Bartlett, "we had podium places on almost all of the runs. The highlight [of the Carnival] was Andrew fighting back in his second run of GS for the overall win."

The weekend's Alpine races were held at Jiminy Peak, while

the Nordic races were moved from Prospect Mountain (William's home course) to Craftsbury Nordic Center, located in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. With the move came the cancellation of one of the Nordic races — the 3x3km relay race. While the race does not carry any NCAA qualification points, it was rumored to have been cancelled because of some stinginess on the part of the Williams Nordic coach. Nordic team coach Andrew Gardner refused to comment on the situation when asked about his thoughts on the cancellation.

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Men's hockey captures third seed for NESCACs



ANDREW PODRYGULA

Mathieu Castonguay '13 passes the puck before a Hamilton defender can steal it. The Panthers beat out the Continentals 2-1, securing their No. 3 seed in the NESCAC tournament.

By Alex Edel

The men's hockey team finished out their last weekend of regular season play 1-1, beating Hamilton and losing late in the game to Amherst. Earlier in the season, the Panthers lost to both teams, and were able to avenge for one of these losses this past weekend.

The team started off the weekend at home against Hamilton, a team who had beaten the Panthers 3-0 earlier in the season. The Panthers came back strong in this second matchup, winning 2-1 to advance their winning streak to five games. This win also locked in the team's No. 3 seed going into the NESCAC playoff tournament.

The team came out aggressively in the first period holding a 14-4 shooting advantage

over the Continentals. At 8:53 into the period Darric White '14 scored his second goal of the year after receiving a pass from Trevor Pollock '13. The team continued on strong when Charlie Strauss '12 passed to George Ordway '15 who flicked it in just 33 seconds into the second period. This marked the first-year's sixth goal of the season. While their shots advantage dropped in the second period to 11-6, the Panthers remained the more offensive team throughout.

With the score at 2-0 and just over two minutes left in the game, Hamilton pulled their goalie in order to replace with an attacker. This proved a good decision for the Continentals, as they were able to score their only goal of the game with just 2:08 remaining. The Panthers were the more dynamic team throughout holding a 30-15

shot advantage and thwarting five out of six power plays.

Hamilton ended their regular season on Sunday after a 5-1 loss to Williams. Ranked No. 8 in the NESCAC league, the Continentals will travel to No. 1 ranked Amherst to compete in the first round of playoffs this coming weekend.

The Panthers also had a chance to stop Amherst's eight game winning streak, but fell short in the final period, losing 2-1 to the league leader. The Panthers appeared undaunted by Amherst's record as they held an 11-4 shots advantage in the first period. Middlebury saw attempts from Strauss, Michael Longo '14 and Tom Freyre '14 denied by the Lord Jeff goalie, Jonathan LaRose. Dan Fullam '15 denied a shot from Erik Hanson, leaving

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